Mac Format ISSUE 212 September 2009

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Mac FORMAT

>Mac >iPod >iPhone
>Issue 212 September 2009

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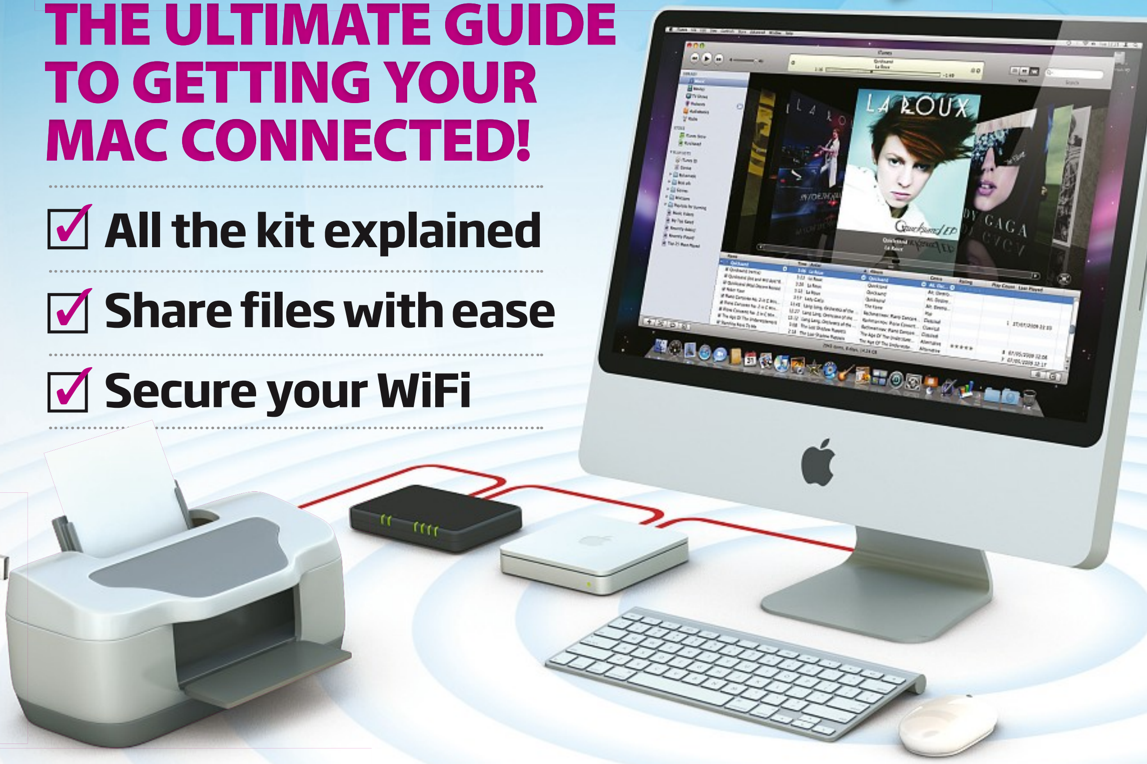

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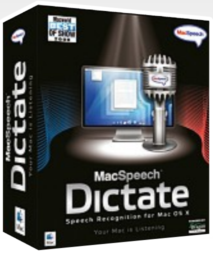

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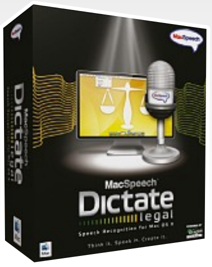

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to MacFormat, the UK's No. 1 Mac magazine

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Networking made easy

Subscribe to MacFormat to **save over 35%** on the newsstand price, and never miss an issue again. **Turn to p28 to sign up now!**

Apple's MacBook Air has finally had the price-cut it has needed ever since it launched at the beginning of last year. As well as upping the processor speed, Apple has knocked a whopping £412 off the price of the top-end model with the 128GB solid-state drive, making it more affordable for everyone. See our review on page 81 this issue. Of course, with no built-in optical drive the MacBook Air is created on the assumption that you have a WiFi network in your home, yet judging from the number of questions you send into our Q&A pages this can be one area where people frequently become unstuck. Despite manufacturers' best efforts, technical problems still abound when it comes to setting up a WiFi network in your home. That's one of the reasons why I commissioned a special feature this issue dedicated to setting up your home network on your Mac. It covers all the kit you need, how to set it up and how to share files between Macs and PCs on your network. It all starts on page 30 – let me know what you think!

Of course, by the time this issue is on sale there could well be a brand-new Mac on the way. Join us on 16 September to find out!

Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

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>> MEET THE TEAM / YOUR MACFORMAT EXPERTS!

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Deputy Editor

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Chris rejects the HTC Magic in favour of his beloved iPhone p85

Ian Osborne

Reviews Editor

"Trading power for portability, and connectivity for convenience, means the Air will never be a machine for everyone."
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OS X expert

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Technical wizard

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Software guru

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>> Answers to your Mac questions

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mobile me
Push email, push calendar, and push contacts.
For your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, PC, and the web.

"MobileMe is now fixed and it does all the things it was supposed to, without falling over…"

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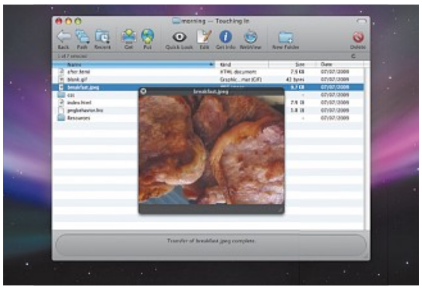

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Maps
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> CoverScout 2

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> Style Master 4.6

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New iPods revealed

Apple improves its touch as traditional iPod sales slow down

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schmidt sliding away

Google CEO Eric Schmidt's has been sitting on Apple's board ever since August 2006, but now the search engine bigwig's recent decision to develop its own Chrome operating system for netbooks could maybe sour relations between the two giant firms.

Schmidt denies conflict of interest and now Google is developing an operating system for computers and smartphones, saying, "I'll talk to the Apple people. At the moment, there's no issue."

Apple watchers expect this year's regular iPod family update to offer improvements that include built-in cameras.

Apple is under pressure to enhance its now-veteran range of MP3 players, as iPhone sales climb steeply and customers increasingly turn to their mobile phones for their music fix.

These changing trends saw iPod sales fall 7% year-on-year in its recent financial quarter, but with 10.2 million sold there's clearly life left in the segment. Life Apple hopes to extend with the addition of new features. iPod touch sales continue to impress – these climbed 130% year-on-year, Apple admits.

Canaccord Adams analyst Peter Misek believes Apple intends using future iterations of the iPod range in order to enter other untapped markets. In a July note he predicts: "We believe Apple will unveil various iPod versions with camcorder functionality." He believes this will help iPod sales reach 65 million by September 2010.

"Based on the anticipation of an expanded target market for its MP3 player, we cannot discount Apple's ability to leverage its brand recognition and capture a meaningful share of the low-end camcorder market," he said.

Introduced in 2007, Cisco's Flip video camera has gained popularity, its ease of use, 8GB (two-hour) capacity and easy USB sync with a computer have generated more than two million sales, grabbing customers away from Sony and JVC.

Apple's iPhone 3GS also includes a built-in video camera. It lets you edit clips on the device, and share them wirelessly with others and YouTube.

While most analysts don't believe the iPhone is a suitable competitor for the Flip right now, they do think the addition of video cameras to the iPod touch or nano will pose a threat. "They're adding functionality to a media player, and the

2ND
LAP 1/3
iPod

Will the iPod touch gain camcorder functionality in the next family upgrade?

APPLE IN PICTURES / Traveller's Mac

MAC HOTEL

City Inn aims to offer guests an outstanding experience, installing Apple iMacs in rooms across all five of its purpose-built hotels.

devices are sold at similar places," says Chris Chute of research firm IDC.

Digitimes reports the new family of devices will carry 3-5 megapixel cameras (sourced from Omnivision), which is enough to capture decent images. And with image- and video-editing features built in (as in the 3GS), Apple's making a play to expand iPod's markets.

Flip's head of marketing, Simon Fleming-Wood, is sanguine at Apple's iPod Flip threat. Insisting his solution is better because it's more focused on video capture and allows stereo audio and high-definition recording, he concedes only that, "For Apple to join this market and help make video ubiquitous like still photography, will be great for everybody."

APPLE IN NUMBERS

5.2 million

How many iPhones Apple sold in its third quarter.

Apple's future iPod touch (with some reports also claiming the iPod nano will also gain these features) will also host a built-in microphone, to capture audio for video and for making calls over WiFI using services such as Skype or Truphone.

The new iPods will offer all the media-centric features of the existing product, access to iPhone apps, email, instant messaging, maps, *Safari* and more. Computerworld's Seth Weintraub adds, "It could also have GPS and a compass."

Notions that Apple's developing its next iPods are reinforced with the company's recent half-billion dollar deal with Toshiba for the supply of Flash memory chips, as used in iPhones, most iPods and many of its laptops. The deal means Apple's secured "about one quarter's worth" of Flash memory for use in its future products.

All these changes have been planned, Apple admitted in July. Chief Financial Officer Peter Oppenheimer said, "We expect our traditional MP3 players to decline over time as we cannibalize ourselves with the iPod touch and the iPhone."

Oppenheimer added that Apple's internal research suggests half of those buying traditional iPods are first-time buyers, even in relatively saturated markets such as the US, Japan and the UK. NPD Group figures show Apple holds 70% of the MP3 player market. ●

"And I'm bored of it. Bored, bored, bored, bored, bored…"

Christopher Phin gives us a tiny clue about how he feels about Apple rumours.

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

›Steve Jobs
www.apple.com
"We're making our most innovative products ever and our customers are responding."
Steve's back at work again

›Stephen Fry
www.stephenfry.com
"The music business is doing the wrong thing in prosecuting those who download… it does no good to treat customers as criminals."
Fry sticks up for sharing

›Tim Cook
www.apple.com
"Some of the netbooks being delivered are very slow. We're only going to deliver something we're proud of."
Apple's COO sounds cool on netbooks

›Charles Wolf
www.needhamco.com
"The iPhone number, 5.2 million, was outrageous. They can't make enough."
Analyst cheers strong iPhone sales

›Andy Hargreaves
www.pacific-crest.com
"iPhone's mobile internet experience and valuable apps will continue to drive gains."
Second analyst states iPhone advantage

Let us know if you've heard any great Apple quotes by emailing them to macformat@futurenet.com

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Speculation madness

Christopher Phin

We are only a little less guilty of it as anyone else – see our Twitter feed at **www.twitter.com/MacFormat** – but man I'm sick to death of Apple rumours.

The latest round – as I write – centres on the concept of a Mac tablet. This, frankly, is as venerable as rumours come, having been bandied about since the turn of the century. And I'm bored of it. Bored, bored, bored, bored, bored. The problem is that despite more frequent leaks from manufacturing and development partners (few of which seem to be malicious or even strategic), Apple is still pretty good at keeping its cards close to its chest. Yes, we've seen some pretty on-the-money guesses based on specs that have emerged from some sources, but we've also seen wildly optimistic and inaccurate guesswork from respected industry analysts, which amount to little more than wishlists.

Folks, I like a bit of speculation as much as the next man – and I'm sure that if Apple does release a tablet 'in time for Christmas' as the *Financial Times* has reported, I'll be desperate to get my hands on it – but it's all just so tiresome. It's tiresome because, with so few confirmed – or even rumoured – details to go on, none of the magic of an Apple product can possibly be accurately described. I mean: if all you know about an unreleased computer is that it has an Intel Core 2 Duo processor and a 13-inch screen, you could easily be describing a Packard Bell.

"So let's all just calm down a bit. When Apple is ready, it'll tell us about the exciting new products that it's launching"

So let's all just calm down a bit. When Apple is ready, it'll tell us about the exciting new products that it's launching – though at the moment it feels like we're in a bit of a holding pattern, kit-wise. And it'll be great. As fun as speculation can be, there's nothing quite like the feeling of sitting in a keynote presentation with no idea of what is going to be unveiled. And then coming out again afterwards wondering how the world could have functioned without the new technology from Apple. I want that back again, dammit!

The rumours are currently circulating as to whether MacFormat's Christopher Phin will be out in time for Christmas.

Apple's retail arm continues to expand while attracting new Mac customers.

APPLE FINANCE

Apple beats the blues

Recession doesn't bite Apple as results reveal

While many firms wilt in the current recession, Apple's third-quarter financial results broke new records – the best non-Christmas quarter for revenue and earnings in Apple's entire corporate history.

Revenue, margins and Mac sales climbed, with iPhone sales reaching 5.2 million – up 626%. Gross revenue reached $8.34 billion for profit of $1.23 billion.

Gross margin was 36.3%, up from 34.8% in the year-ago quarter. International sales accounted for 44% of the quarter's revenue, with Apple's UK arm doing particularly well, exceeding sales targets.

Apple sold 2.6 million Macs, representing a 4% unit increase over the year-ago quarter. 1.75 million notebooks sold during the quarter, up 13 % from the 1.553 million it sold in the same period last year. Desktop sales fell from 943,000 to 849,000, year-on-year. The iTunes Store sold its 8 billionth song in the second week of July, Apple executives said.

Apple's retail segment remains strong despite all the recent high-street gloom, it pulled in $1.5 billion in revenue and attracted 38.6 million visitors. Half the 492,000 Macs sold at Apple's retail outlets went to new customers, once again confirming the Mac's growing popularity.

Looking ahead to the much-anticipated release of Mac OS X Snow Leopard, the company has confirmed that it remains on target for release in the current quarter, with Apple's Chief Financial Officer Peter Oppenheimer stating, "We are very enthusiastic about the upcoming launch of Snow Leopard, and the enhanced performance and user experience it will offer to our Mac customers."

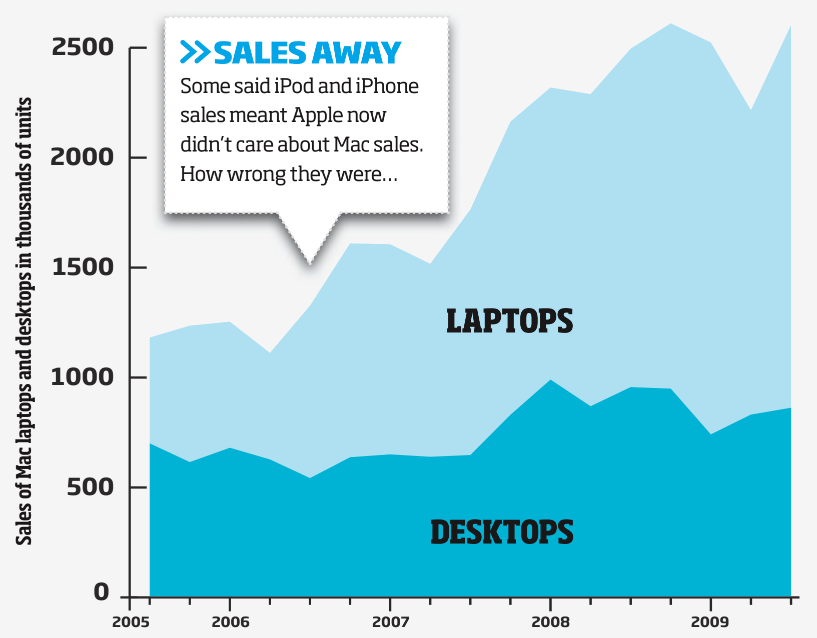
Oppenheimer went on to offer strong guidance for Apple's final 2009 financial quarter, which ends in September. "Looking ahead to the fourth fiscal quarter of 2009, we expect revenue in the range of about $8.7 billion to $8.9 billion," he said. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

626,000

Macs sold in Europe in Apple's third quarter.

APPLE IN NUMBERS / Mac unit sales



SALES AWAY
Some said iPod and iPhone sales meant Apple now didn't care about Mac sales. How wrong they were…

Sourced from Apple's financial statements

VIDEO-EDITING

Final Cut Studio upgrade is here

Industry-leading video-editing suite gets better

Apple has upgraded its video-industry workhorse, *Final Cut Studio*, adding more than 100 new features. "With 1.4 million users and 50% of the market, *Final Cut Pro* is the top professional video-editing app," said Phil Schiller, Apple's Worldwide Product Marketing Chief.

The release includes new versions of *Final Cut Pro* (7), *Motion, Soundtrack Pro, Color and Compressor. Final Cut* expands Apple's *ProRes* codec family to support virtually any workflow and includes Easy Export for simple output to a variety of formats, including YouTube, MobileMe, iPhone and more. Also included, *iChat Theater* will boost effective real-time collaboration.

The addition of *ProRes Proxy* is a bonus for mobile video editors, who can work offline at far lower bandwidth than previously. Additional features include tools to change clip speed, alpha transitions to create effects using moving mattes, and native AVC-Intra support for the latest Panasonic cameras.

Motion 4's enhanced tools include 3D shadows, reflections and depth of field for motion graphics and visual effects, while *Soundtrack Pro 3* boasts new multitrack audio tools to streamline audio post-production. *Color 1.5* offers better support for full-colour resolution, while *Compressor 3.5* is much easier to set up. The software costs £799 (£249 upgrade).●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

$31.1 billion

Apple's cash hoard has grown $2.2 billion since March.

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Netbook claim prevails
The rumours that Apple plans some kind of netbook-like device are now constant. But, we think it won't be a netbook but a whole new thing putting Apple ahead of the curve again.

HOT: Bye-bye O2 exclusivity?
With Verizon staff in the US already saying that their network will soon offer iPhones to customers, we expect Apple will move to widen distribution in the UK.

NOT: iPod classic on last legs
With Flash memory capacity climbing and iPod classic sales slowing, we think we'll see one more iteration of the hard drive-based iPod, it's not quite dead yet.

NOT: Microsoft isn't scared…
Microsoft's Group Product Manager of Windows Mobile claims the industry is still young and his company will remain relevant to the market. It's like Zune v. iPod once again.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

Watch out for the remake of the 1980's classic, *Fame*. Set in a New York performing arts school it's clear that everyone's an iPod user, we lost track of the number of telltale white headphones we saw.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>> ACROSS THE POND

Premium App Store

Susie Ochs

Here in America, most strip malls and run-down shopping districts contain at least one 'dollar store' where everything inside costs $1 or less. Within these ubiquitous establishments, you'll find scary generic food in dented tins, flimsy plastic kitchen tools and slightly irregular paper products. The stores, while tacky and fun to dig through, are not known for their quality merchandise. It should go without saying that they do not sell software.

Even so, I can't help be reminded of the dollar store every time I check out what's hot in the App Store. With so many gimmicky 99¢ apps clogging every category, the more robust, full-featured apps can be crowded out of the Top 25 lists. Worse, they seem too expensive alongside crippled Lite apps and ugly ad-supported apps that do the same thing.

A Premium App Store would definitely help users more easily find quality software that makes the iPhone seem like a truly advanced handheld computing platform, not just a shiny toy that makes fart noises. Apple obviously has a good idea of who's making outstanding iPhone apps, inviting handpicked companies like ngmoco, Smule, AirStrip Technologies, TomTom, ESPN and Electronic Arts to demonstrate applications at live press events in Cupertino and San Francisco. So why not have a separate storefront for premier selections, similar to the boxed software still given valuable shelf space at retail Apple Stores. It's the same principle: top-quality software deserves the attention.

> *"With so many gimmicky apps clogging every category, the more robust, full-featured apps can be crowded out"*

The Desktop version of the App Store does have a **Staff Favorites** section, and that's a good start. You can't search by price or sort by price either on the phone or on the Mac, which Apple really should fix sometime soon. Even just a separate App Store section, called, say, **Super Apps** (or, er, something better than that), with its own top-sellers list would help.

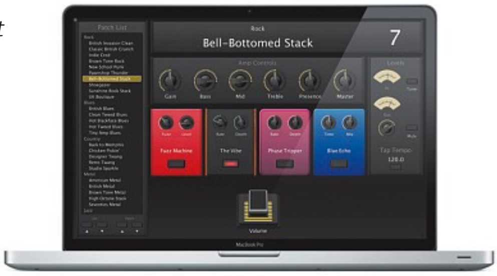
Anything to clear out the dollar-store dredge and let the cream rise to the top.

Susie Ochs is the Senior Editor of *Mac|Life* in San Francisco and a big fan of singer/songwriter Amber Rubarth.

>> MUSIC-APP NEWS

Logic upgrades

Highly improved music-making suite ships



Logic now offers simple guitar effects tools as well as all the usual music-making treats.

As well as an upgrade to *Final Cut Studio*, Apple has also improved *Logic Studio*, introducing major improvements to the music-making app and live performance app, *MainStage*.

More than we can detail here, there's more than 200 new features to simplify complex tasks. A welcome boon for musicians comes with the addition of all-new *Amp Designer* and *Pedalboard* plug-ins. These offer 25 realistic virtual guitar amps alongside an additional 25 virtual speaker cabinets.

Guitarists can build their own custom rig by mixing and matching amps, cabinets, reverbs and EQs, and can choose from three different microphones that can be positioned in 3D space to capture the ideal tone. *Pedalboard* adds 30 guitar stompbox pedals that can be arranged in any order to produce effects including overdrive or distortion.

New *Flex Time* tools let musicians manipulate the timing and tempo of audio. *MainStage 2* includes new *Playback* and *Loopback* plug-ins to provide backing tracks and real-time loop recording for performing on stage. *Logic Studio* also includes a new *Soundtrack Pro 3*, with new multitrack audio tools for video production and *Compressor 3.5* for encoding in a variety of formats.

Logic Studio costs £399 and is available now, upgrades from previous versions cost £159. Apple have also introduced an upgraded version of *Logic Express*, £159. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

2 billion

Songs sold on iTunes between 6 Jan and 21 Jul, 2009.

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

Apple's quarterly financial results exceeded the high expectations that the market had.

The recession doesn't seem to apply to Apple. It has sold five million iPhones; seven times more than it did the year before. While this is a tiny 1% of the mobile market, it is 20% of the profit that the mobile market makes. It was also a major contributor to Apple's profits in the period.

Apple made $1.23 billion in the three months to the end of June; the most successful non-Christmas period since the company began. Since March, the share price has almost doubled.

Meanwhile Apple has apparently captured 90% of the top-end PC market.

But it's not just the front-line hits that make Apple's position so strong; it's the integration with content platforms such as iTunes and App Store that turns hit products into franchises. In the end, it is software that sells hardware and Apple has control of both platforms, a powerful combination that puts competitors at a disadvantage.

Apple's stock is sat at the top of a long-term bear market trend. If it can break through it there will be a rally to $200, if not it will fall back below $100. You would have to be a very brave bear to bet against the company.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

» iPHONE NEWS

1.5 billion App Store downloads

How long will the iPhone lead the smartphone market?

A million-plus iPhone 3GS sales and 1.5 billion App Store downloads in one year mean Apple's winning the smartphone war.

Apple continues to shake up the industry, with recent Nielsen data confirming 29% of US customers went over to the iPhone to replace a Motorola handset. 11% migrated from Samsung while 9% ditched their Palms.

In his first public statement since returning to Apple, CEO Steve Jobs said, "The App Store is like nothing the industry has ever seen before in both scale and quality… it is going to be very hard for others to catch up." There's now over 65,000 Apps available in-store.

Others in the industry have begun dismissing Apple's advantage. Speaking to attendees at the MobileBeat 2009 conference, Google Engineering's Vice President, Vic Gundotra, predicted web apps will become the dominant mobile application development platform.

"We believe the web has won and over the next several years, the browser, for economic reasons almost, will become the platform that matters. And certainly that's where Google is investing."

iTunes
App Store
RadioTimes
Earth vs. Moon
Ocado
Financial Times
Mobile maps

The App Store has taken the industry by storm with its impressive figures.

Gundotra cited the advanced HTML5 standard, with its wide support for multimedia, geolocation technologies and more as proof to his claims. Earlier in iPhone development, Apple allowed developers to create web-based apps for the iPhone, but expanded this strategy under developer and customer pressure.

Gundotra said, "I think Steve (Jobs) really did understand that, over the long term, it would be the web, and I think that's how things will play out."

It's now Apple and RIM's game. 2008 saw them: "Seize 3% of global mobile sales but 35% of profits," said Deutsche Bank analyst Brian Modoff. ●

» APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

16
SEPTEMBER

IBC, Amsterdam
11-15 September
Europe's biggest event for professionals in video, broadcasting, TV and electronic content creation.

MACFORMAT Issue 213
16 September
Watch out for the next packed issue of the UK's most popular Mac magazine, the latest products and information for the Apple enthusiast.

CREATIVE ALLIANCE TOUR
Autumn
Pro-photographers can join autumn dates in Manchester and London, presented by Adobe, Apple, HP and others.

THE MUSIC SHOW, Dublin
3-4 October
Ireland's leading music and technology event offers key industry speakers and the latest technological innovation.

STORAGE EXPO, London
14-15 October
This is the place to go to stay informed on the latest developments in data storage and content management.

TOTAL PRINT! EXPO, London
20-22 October
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Extend the battery time of your iPhone with this elegant power pack

We all love our iPhones, but with so many great features on offer its battery life frequently takes a hammering. Sending emails, using its GPS system, surfing the net, listening to your tunes and taking snaps and videos with the 3GS's new 3MP camera all takes its toll. Thankfully, there's a great alternative to the mid-afternoon recharge…

With the Mophie Juice Pack Air, you can double the battery life of your iPhone 3G or 3GS. The Air gives 270 extra hours of standby time and up to nine hours of additional talktime. You can also surf the net for up to five hours, or enjoy 20 hours more music or six hours' video viewing.

Juice Pack Air's elegant design keeps your iPhone slim, and, unlike the previous Juice Pack, it cocoons the entire device. It also offers a Micro USB port, so you don't have to remove the phone from the Air to charge or sync (cable supplied) it . It's available in a black, white or purple finish.

Thanks to those generous folks at Mophie, we've got 15 – yes, 15 – Juice Pack Airs to give away. And as they have a RRP of £70, that's more than £1,000-worth of prizes…

The question

To stand a chance of winning one of 15 Juice Pack Airs, just answer this simple question:

The Juice Pack Air is available in three colours – what are they?

A) Black, white and purple

B) Red, white and blue

C) Maroon, puce and heliotrope

» HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text JUICE, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
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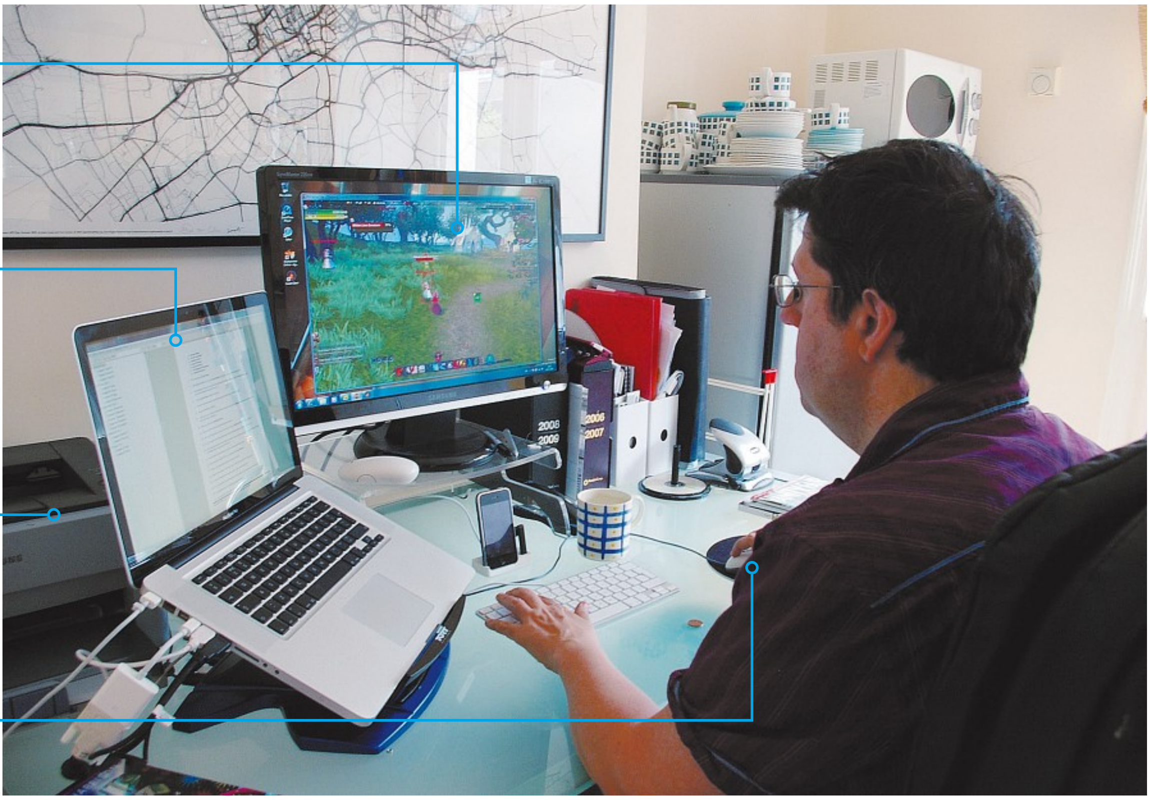
Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

>> CONTACT US

Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **christopher.phin@futurenet.com**



Samsung SyncMaster 226BW
Ian's always liked Samsung monitors, which are good looking and affordable.

Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch 2.8GHz
Bought for the 500GB hard drive! Here running Windows using *Boot Camp*.

Samsung ML-2240
"I print about five things a year," says Ian, "but need quality when I do, so this was a bargain at £60."

Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical
Ian thinks that Microsoft could teach Apple how to make good ergonomic mice.

>> PROFILE

Name: Ian Betteridge
Occupation: Editor
Been using a Mac for: 23 years!
Favourite hardware: Apple iPhone
Favourite software: Apple Keynote
Web: www.technovia.co.uk

Editor Ian Betteridge may have been a Mac user for more than 20 years, but he has delved into the world of PCs many times. "They're OK. I'm a big fan of Ubuntu Linux, and a Dell laptop running Ubuntu was my main machine for a year or so. The MacBook Pro seduced me back into the fold, but I still keep a PC round for emergencies and the odd Windows-only game.

"I first started using the Mac at polytechnic in 1986, and I used one for almost everything today. I write with *Pages, Scrivener* and *Word*. I edit images with *Acorn* and occasionally *Photoshop*. I edit video with *Final Cut Express* and audio with *GarageBand*. And that's just the work-related stuff.

"There's nothing that I do with my Mac at work that I couldn't do with a PC, but that misses the point. The best thing about the Mac in a work context is that it doesn't get in the way. I don't have to spend time stopping and thinking about how to do something or wondering where an option is."

> *"My very favourite Apple product is one that I have never actually owned: the Power Mac G4 Cube"*

Having spent so long using Macs, it comes as no surprise to learn that Ian has a few favourites. "My very favourite product is one that I never actually owned: the Power Mac G4 Cube. All the criticisms that everyone made of it at the time were true; it was too expensive, not powerful enough and lacked expandability. But in the process of designing it, Apple's engineers learned a great deal about making products small, quiet and beautiful. Without the Cube, I don't think Apple could have gone on to make the Mac mini, LCD iMacs or the MacBook Air." The MacBook Air is another of Ian's favourite pieces of hardware, though he admits that buying one to shave a few ounces off his MacBook Pro-toting bag would be rather indulgent!

And as for his favourite software? We're in complete agreement when he says: "*Keynote*, because it makes the often-dull process of preparing presentations a delight. Where *PowerPoint* encourages you to think in a linear, 'outline-centric' way, *Keynote* encourages you to think about the visuals that the people you're presenting to will see. That also means you focus more on what you're going to say, rather than relying on words on-screen to tell the story." ●

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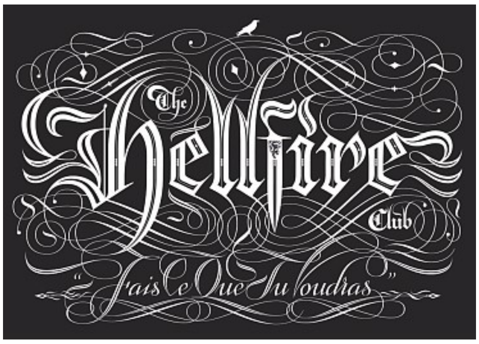
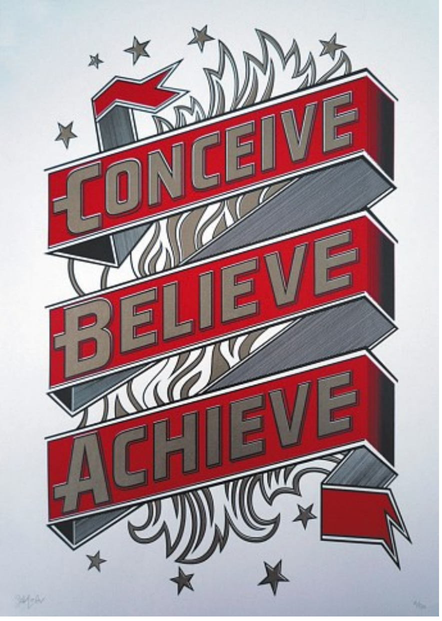
SOHO

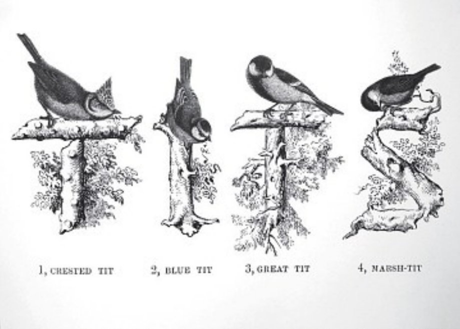
MacFormat's current font

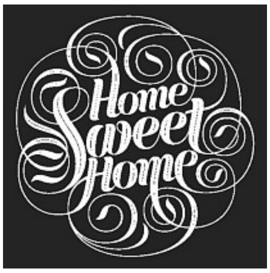
Using Standard and Gothic faces

Designed and built by Sebastian Lester in 2004-2007 for Monotype Imaging


The Hellfire Club
"Fais Ce Que Tu Voudras"







FAR LEFT: Top: MacFormat's font; below: Hellfire Club. **MIDDLE:** Inspirational poster design. **LEFT:** Eye-catching typography. **ABOVE:** Light relief ornithological style.

I use my Mac for type design

Christopher Phin talks fonts with type designer and illustrator Seb Lester

»PROFILE

Name: Seb Lester
Location: London
Occupation: Type designer/ typographic illustrator
System(s): Power Mac G5, Intel Core 2 Duo MacBook
Web: www.seblester.co.uk

MacFormat: How do you use the Mac in your work?

Seb Lester: As a type designer and illustrator my Mac is central to my workflow. With my work I always start with a sketchpad and paper, but I use *Fontlab* and *Adobe Creative Suite* every day. I also listen to music every day on *iTunes* as I work, which inspires me. It also helps keep me awake when I'm working very late at night, which is often!

MF: What were your main goals in creating the Soho and Soho Gothic families?

SL: I wanted the family as a whole to look effortlessly modern. Something that works in all environments and at all sizes. Clean, precise, uncluttered forms that lend themselves well to a broad range of uses. I wanted a mature, refined design that would look as good being used as the backbone of a global brand as it would in a magazine such as *MacFormat*. I was trying to design a modern classic.

MF: When you see your fonts being used, do you ever hate what has been done with them?

SL: No, not at all. It's always nice to see my type being used. I have seen my typefaces in some weird and wonderful places and used in peculiar ways. As long as they've licensed the fonts it's always a compliment that someone chose your design.

MF: What can folks not trained in typography do to improve how text they set looks?

SL: Generally people who don't have formal design training use too many typefaces in their design. There are exceptions to every rule, but very rarely you need more than two typefaces to do justice to a piece of design. 'Keep it simple' is a good general rule to abide by as well if you're unsure of what you're doing.

MF: Tell us about your solo show, and the work it contains.

SL: The solo show is in Newcastle at Electrik Sheep Gallery and runs from 6 August until the end of the month. It's really been an opportunity to push myself creatively, producing original art and limited edition prints all based on letterforms. It's a diverse range of work from elaborate, involved pieces to simpler work; I wanted to design something for most tastes. I've worked very hard on the show and I'm very pleased with how it's looking. ●

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The hottest kit, coming soon. Here's what Apple is up against

Hetty
Henry

▶ Henry and Hetty Desktop

£13 www.tinyurl.com/536fae

What is it? Desktop versions of the cutest vacuum cleaners in the hardware store. Powered by two AA batteries and replete with a range of accessories, at last you can suck up the dirt from those awkward-to-reach areas of your desk.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? If your keyboards and desks get as filthy as ours do, we're sure these will excite you too.

Canon
PowerShot D10

◀ Canon PowerShot D10

£379 www.canon.co.uk

What is it? A miniature, rugged digital camera that's ideal for clipping to your belt while mountain climbing, or for snapping fish on your snorkelling holiday. It offers a 12.1MP resolution, a 3x zoom lens and a 2.5-inch PureColor LCD II screen that's been modified for better outdoor performance.

When's it due? It's out now!

Why are we excited? It's great to see a digital compact that can take the knocks and perform under harsh conditions, yet doesn't compromise on quality. A camera that puts the fun back into photography.

SONY
04:25PM
Ponciana
Lura
M'bem Di Fora
Lura
01:22
03:58
5/13
HOME

▲ Sony Walkman X-Series

From £220 www.sony.co.uk

What is it? Sony's answer to the iPod touch also comes in 16 and 32GB versions. It has an OLED touchscreen, digital noise cancellation to cut out external distractions and WiFi.

When's it due? You can buy it now!

Why are we excited? Although the screen's half an inch smaller than the touch, OLED technology offers brighter colours and better contrast. It's about time portable MP3 players offered digital noise cancelling too. It's too expensive to give Apple any sleepless nights, but its cutting-edge features should keep the company on its toes.

▶ PhoneSuit MiLi Pro

£TBA www.phonesuit.com

What is it? A rechargeable micro video projector for the iPhone, iPod touch and iPod classic. It's small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, and can display 640x480-resolution images on almost any viewing surface. It has integrated speakers too.

When's it due? Coming very shortly.

Why are we excited? The iPhone lets you carry your movies around in your pocket, and now you can watch them on your wall. How cool is that?

▼ Logitech Speaker System Z320

£50 www.logitech.com

What is it? Compact speakers that sound good anywhere. The Z320 delivers a full range of sound in a small package, and is ideal for notebook and desktop Macs. The built-in headphone jack means you can switch to your headphones easily.

When's it due? Should be out by the time you read this.

Why are we excited? They're great looking, affordable and compact. They're not the most powerful speakers out there, but they've got enough wellie for most computer setups.

▲ Calvin Klein USB Memory Frames

£TBA www.ck.com

What is it? A pair of sunglasses with a 4GB USB flash drive concealed in the arm. They're available in several styles, and are designed for both men and women. A UK price has yet to be set, but over the pond they'll be $199 (£122).

When's it due? Autumn 2009

Why are we excited? It's a novel way of carrying data around and protect your eyes from UV rays at the same time. We're not that excited about them, but if you're into your designer names and don't mind the price tag, then these may appeal.

Feedback

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

>>CONTACT US

Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

New iPod touch?

There is no doubt in my mind that there will be a brand-new iPod touch in September. Apple needs to stay ahead of the game and what better way to move ahead than by adding a 3MP camera to the iPod touch, which will better utilise its updated 3.0 software. As a first-generation touch user, I, and many others, will upgrade, which will, in turn, create a new run of sales that will leave other players in the dust. Just my opinion, of course.

Al Kozeliski

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Photos
iTunes

MacFormat replies: The rumour mill is currently going into overdrive about a new iPod touch featuring a camera. And seeing as Apple has traditionally always refreshed its iPod lines in September, we're keeping our fingers crossed for a brand new iPod touch, as well.

Little red light

Having read the Q&A section of the August issue of *MacFormat*, I was a little disappointed to read the response to the question 'What is that strange little red light on my Mac?'. Responding in the way Luis did might put off other readers from asking questions, which they may consider 'dumb' or, given the sarcastic nature of the response, they might think they could be ridiculed. Yes, granted, someone should not be asking the same question twice, but there are choices here – you don't have to actually publish it again!

Rob Morse

Graham Barlow replies: Luis does sometimes sail a bit close to

>>STAR LETTER / Mac as a media centre

I made my move to the Mac six years ago, after a friend let me have his Power Mac G4.

When I bought my current iMac last year I was able to repurpose my Mac mini as a Leopard-based media centre, and Christopher Phin's excellent article (as featured in issue 210) brought a few suggestions of my own to mind:

1) Go to System Preferences > Accounts > Login items and set *Front Row* as a login item, and it'll automatically bring you to the menu on boot.

2) Do you only have a standard-definition TV, and find yourself squinting at the telly each time you update *iTunes* with new media? Apple's already got the perfect solution in the form of Screen Sharing. Just log in remotely from another Mac (or iPhone or PC using a VNC client) across your network. Makes scheduling TV recordings in EyeTV a cinch!

3) Do you want to shut down from your armchair, but don't want to have a mouse or keyboard dedicated to what is, after all, now an appliance as much as a computer? Harmen Sipemka has come to the rescue with *Front Row Shutdown* (at http://dinkytunes.com/). This provides an added option to the *Front Row* main menu and lets you do a full shutdown using your Apple Remote.

Tony Evershed

MacFormat replies: These are excellent suggestions, Tony, and there is a well-deserved Letter of the Month prize heading your way as a thank you.

STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

HD
Final Cut Studio
MacBook Pro

Is it about time Apple gave Final Cut Pro a facelift?

the wind in his Q&A, but I normally find his writing style livens up what could be quite a dry section. Ultimately though I took the decision to print his response, so if it was thought to be offensive then I apologise and I hope it doesn't discourage new Mac owners from asking questions in the future.

Is Final Cut looking old?

It seems that *Final Cut* is in dire need of a refresh. The interface may be simple and an industry standard but, nowadays, both *Final Cut Express* and *Pro* versions are looking very outdated. Apple has given other applications, such as *iLife '09*, a facelift and really made them look up to date. *Final Cut* on the other hand seems to look old. Of course, when you actually get stuck in, *Final Cut* is a powerful tool for anyone who is interested in editing video to a high standard. It just seems though that Apple really needs to give this program an update so that more people would be inclined to use it.

Dan Haycocks

MacFormat replies: We're inclined to agree with you, Dan. The *Final Cut Pro* interface is looking a little dated, especially compared to the consumer-level *iMovie*. As you'll read in Start Up this month, a new version of *Final Cut Pro* has just been released, but it seems to be a case of slight tweaks and more features, rather than a radical redesign. Look out for our full review of *Final Cut Pro Studio* next issue for the final word.

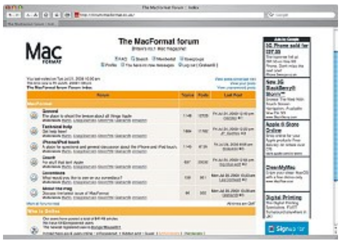
Forum foibles

I'm having a struggle to register on http://forum.macformat.co.uk/ and wonder if you can help me?

Firstly, the confirmation code says it's case sensitive, but I can't tell which letters are meant to be upper or lower case. Secondly, the question under the confirmation code – how should I know what's the correct response to "Say hello"?

Avril Jones

MacFormat replies: Our forum provides a great way to get a quick answer to a Mac question, or just chat with other Mac users. Unfortunately, the registration pages seem to have foxed quite a few of our readers, so we thought it was worth mentioning here. The confirmation code should be written in capitals and it contains no numerical characters, so an "o" is the letter and not the number zero.



Don't miss out talking to other MacFormat readers on our forum.

The answer to "Are you human?" is "yes", and the correct response to "Say hello" is, you guessed it, "hello". Neither is case sensitive. You'll then receive an email containing a confirmation link, so make sure you've entered a correct email address.

CompactFlash Mac options

I was interested to read your review of the OCZ solid-state drives in the July issue. If readers want to try out the benefits of SSDs without the cost, why not run your Mac off a CompactFlash card? I've replaced the HD in my old Pismo G3 PowerBook with an 8GB SanDisk card – true, you've got early-90s storage capacity, but it's fine if you only need a word processor, web surfer, emailer etc. OS X 10.4.11 runs fine on my Pismo, and the CompactFlash card is fast and silent.

All I did was remove the old hard drive, then got a CompactFlash card and an IDE-to-CompactFlash adaptor from eBay. Slot the card into the adaptor, then put the other end of the adaptor into the IDE interface on the Mac, and off you go. It's ready to load a fresh OS X installation onto.

Simon Cheshire

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the tip, Simon – maybe Apple could use this idea for a low-cost, lightweight Mac netbook? ●

Twitter @#! talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked: What was your first Mac and what do you remember about it? Tag your replies #firstmac

karlhodge
Mac Plus that I wrote my dissertation on. Had a working SE, until it started oozing green liquid last year.

ldrydenb @MacFormat
My first Mac was an LC475 with an *external* CD cartridge drive and a StyleWriter. Rainbow Apple logos everywhere!

curraghman @MacFormat
Performa 475 in 1994. 4MB RAM 250MB HD. I remember it cost £300 to add 4MB of RAM & CD-ROM drive.

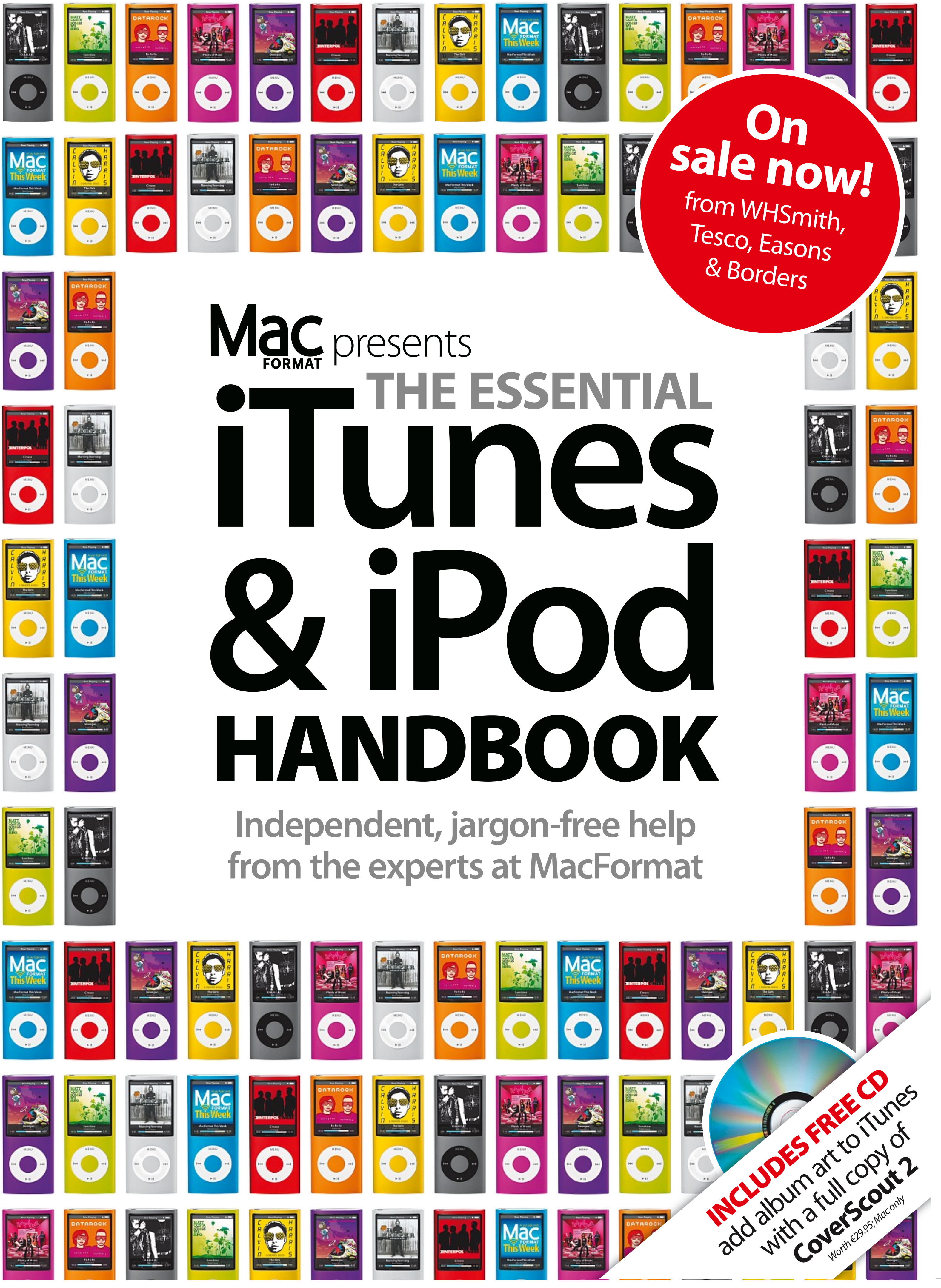
macboy73
Performa 630 – 8MB RAM, 500MB HD, Apple Colour Display, Stylewriter 1200. Cost about £1000.

Kercal
First Mac was Apple Cube. Then wifey put something on top of it that switched it on and blocked vents :(

patlee @MacFormat
My first Mac was a Mac Plus with an ImageWriter & Apple Modem. Loading everything off the built-in floppy drive. Word 1.x.

SquareGroup @MacFormat
A G4 450 Tower. A refurb that was resuscitated more times than I can remember.

Follow what we're up to each month at Twitter.com/MacFormat



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MacFormat investigates

How to save money upgrading to an iPhone 3GS

If you're dying to get your hands on the 3GS, you don't have to break the bank to own one, as a frugal **Matthew Bolton** explains

One million iPhone 3GS devices sold over the course of the launch weekend has proved that Apple's communicator is still the closest human equivalent to catnip. Just like the 3G, the 3GS is available either on contract or Pay & Go, with the 3GS commanding a hefty price premium over its older sibling. Our chart, on page 26, details all the different tariffs and costs, so you can see how much an upgrade to the new iPhone will cost in the shop.

> "Many iPhone owners have voiced their displeasure at not being allowed an early upgrade…"

The problem is that there is another cost attached to the 3GS upgrade for current iPhone contract customers. 12-month contracts aren't very common in the mobile world, and non-existent in the iPhone world. If you're stuck in the middle of a contract on your current iPhone, the only way to get the 3GS now could be to buy out your contract or get the new model on Pay & Go. The P&G price is not cheap, but buying out your contract could prove even more costly. Don't worry, though, *MacFormat* is here to reduce that deficit.

Many iPhone owners, particularly of the original model, have voiced their displeasure at not being allowed an early upgrade. The original 2G iPhone wasn't subsidised, as almost all mobile phones are, meaning that early adopters paid the full price for the hardware. The 3G came about not long after, and was subsidised in the normal way by O2, making it cheaper. As a gesture of goodwill (and to avoid iPhone-shaped holes in their shop windows), the network allowed early upgrades. Given this precedent, some iPhone owners have demanded another early upgrade.

These days, the iPhone is subsidised like any other phone, so O2's stance is that it has no reason to offer special treatment to iPhone customers. Truth be told, this is perfectly reasonable. No matter how much we'd like the new hardware, it's just a phone like any other for O2 – although it does have us over a barrel as you can't threaten to leave and get the phone on another network.

Anybody who started an 18-month contract on their iPhone 3G when it launched would currently find themselves about two-thirds of the way through it. In most cases, this is too early for O2 to want to give you a phone upgrade, including the 3GS.

O2-UK
14:41
Mark Ronson feat. Phantom Planet
Just
Version (Digital Edition)
5 of 5
02:41
-02:38
O2-UK
10:49
Thursday
30
Calendar
Calculator
Photos
Camera
Messages
Phone
Maps
Weather
LogMeIn
Facebook
Notes
Clock
Pennies
iPod
Compass
Settings
NetNewsWire
Twitterrific
Safari
Mail

There's no need to own two iPhones when just the one will suffice…
Photography: Jo Branston

3G
9:42 AM
Cancel
8 of 38

9:42 AM
315° NW
NW
N
NE
E
SE
S
SW
W
°19'55"N, 122°1'46"W

When combined with Google Maps, the new magnetometer means that the only excuse for getting lost is yourself.

Therefore, the first issue is assessing the damage of getting out of your current contract…

The cost of quitting

O2 is quite happy to end your contract early, you just have to pay them all the money you signed for. Early iPhone 3G adopters will have around six months to go now, which means a payout of around £200 on the lower contracts to free you. This was no small amount of money when the economy was in good shape, but now that it resembles the sad ashes of a big pile of burned cash, that's an even more unpalatable sum.

The trick, then, is finding a way to make up that cost. We've got some advice for getting the maximum return on your old iPhone that requires a bit of effort, but we've also got some simpler solutions. For example, you might actually be able to get an upgrade from O2 after all.

For higher-paying mobile customers there is a tiered system (called the Priority List) for upgrading, that offers you the opportunity to get a new phone earlier if you pay more per month. Paying £35 per month gets you an upgrade one month early, which, let's face it, is not really much of a bonus. Paying £50 per month gets you jumped ahead by three months. Early 3G adopters paying this much could definitely benefit here, if you can hang on for a little while longer. Finally, those paying more than £80 per month can upgrade with six months left. We're at a loss to suggest who exactly can afford to pay this much every month, yet can't afford to just buy any new phone whenever they like, but there it is.

Ways and means

So O2 has played its hand and it isn't very generous. There is actually still hope for saving money without leaving the high street. Carphone Warehouse is the other iPhone stockist, and it's far happier to help you trim some money off the cost of the new phone.

> *"O2 are quite happy to end your contract early, you just have to pay them all the money you signed for…"*

The chain has a trade-in program available either in-store or online, and it's offering £180 for a 16GB iPhone 3G, £170 for the 8GB version and a cool £100 for the original iPhone.

The excellent video editing shows the potential of the new iPhone 3GS - but is that enough to make you upgrade?

Compared to the Pay & Go prices for a new iPhone it's not a mind-blowing contribution, but if you're nearing the end of your contract then it might be enough to make paying off affordable and that 3GS upgrade one step closer.

If the fact that there's only £10 difference between the 8GB 3G and the 16GB seems a bit odd that's because it is, but it's not nearly as strange as the prices if you're looking to buy one of these models. O2 has made the news that the original 3G is still available well-known, but Carphone Warehouse is still selling the 16GB version quietly. And it's charging a mere £2 more for it if you're on a lower contract, or nothing extra at all on a higher one. O2 told us that the 16GB 3G is no longer on sale as far as it's concerned, so this bargain will disappear as stocks of the phone do.

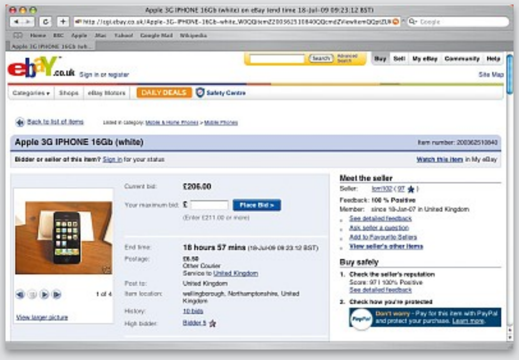
>> iPHONE TARIFFS / A lowdown of what you will pay

	18 MONTHS				24 MONTHS			
Tariff	£29.38	£34.26	£44.05	£73.41	£34.26	£44.05	£73.41	PAYG
iPhone 3G 8GB	£96.89	£96.89	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	£342.50
iPhone 3GS 16GB	£184.98	£184.98	£87.11	Free	£87.11	Free	Free	£440.40
iPhone 3GS 32GB	£274.23	£274.23	£175.19	£96.89	£175.19	£96.89	Free	£538.30
UK minutes	75	600	1200	3000	600	1200	3000	
UK texts	125	500	500	500	500	500	500	
Unlimited UK data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12 Months

» SALES TECHNIQUES / Ways of maximising return

One way to get maximum return when selling your iPhone is to try and get it replaced under warranty before advertising it. Look carefully for problems with the joins in the casing, any marks from overheating on the back or under the glass front, and check the glass carefully for any tiny bubble imperfections.
If you find anything that you think could warrant getting a replacement, then pop down to your nearest Apple Service Centre. A brand-new phone should bring in more money than a used one.

If you can't get a replacement, then the key is to be honest about the phone's condition. Clean it up if you're posting a picture, but don't worry too much about a few minor scratches. On eBay, phones that are described as having normal wear-and-tear scratches on the back still go for almost £280 because it's nothing the phone wouldn't pick up anyway.
If you're going to attempt to sell your 3G, then get in early. As the 3GS increases in popularity, potential second-hand buyers will look for that instead. 3GS upgraders will be trying sell off their 3G iPhones, meaning that there will be more on sale for fewer buyers. As any economist will tell you, when supply outstrips demand, prices decrease.



Apple 3G IPHONE 16Gb (white) on eBay (end time 18-Jul-09 09:23:12 BST)

Apple 3G IPHONE 16Gb (white)

Current bid: £206.00

End time: 18 hours 57 mins

Post to: United Kingdom

History: 10 bids

Meet the seller

Feedback: 100 % Positive

Buy safely

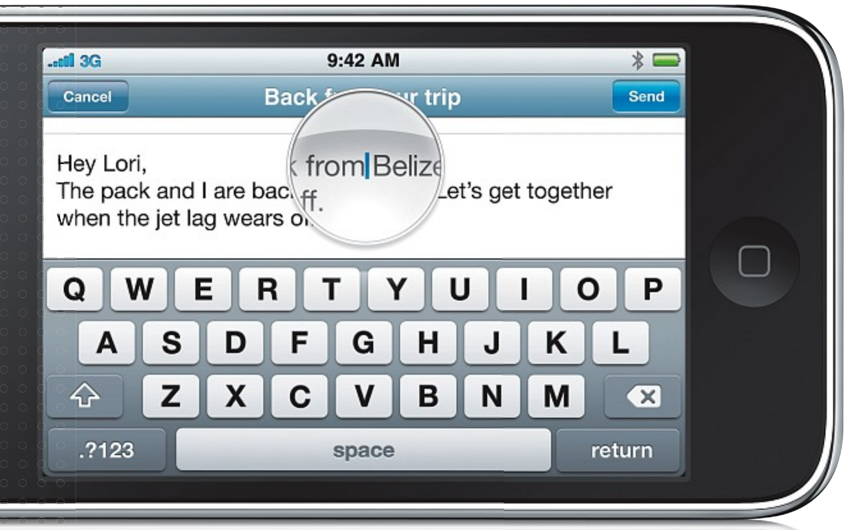
1. Check the seller's reputation

2. Check how you're protected

Even phones that have wear and tear will go for a decent price.

If you go online, there's more money to be made. Over at Mazuma Mobile (www.mazumamobile.com) they're offering £200 cash for a 16GB iPhone 3G or £220 in Argos vouchers (or £180 cash/£198 in vouchers for the 8GB) at time of writing.

This may not be enough to fund your upgrade. If you need to sell on your own terms your options are to sell it to a friend, through the small ads or to try online. The problem with selling to your friend is that you don't really want to charge them too much. You might be more comfortable demanding a higher price from a stranger through an ad, but bear in mind that a new 8GB 3G on P&G is £340, so if you ask for too close to that, you may not get any takers.



A landscape keyboard in more applications is just one of the features that the iPhone 3.0 firmware brings to all iPhone owners.

eBay, as ever, is its own reward. Even with the 3GS released, we've seen auctions for 16GB 3G iPhones finish at more than £270. This wasn't even for a 'brand new in box', unlocked version of the device either – the auction was plainly stated as being for a used phone that was still locked to O2.

> *"We've seen 16GB 3G iPhones go for £270. And this wasn't even for a 'brand new in box', unlocked version…"*

After the stocks of 16GB 3G phones in the shops dry up, then any owners of this particular iPhone iteration may find that its value increases slightly as it becomes rarer to find and before it goes down completely when the 3GS becomes more prevalent.

The current availability of the 16GB 3G for little or no premium over the 8GB 3G raises up one major point about saving money when upgrading to the iPhone 3GS; would not upgrading be the cheapest option of all?

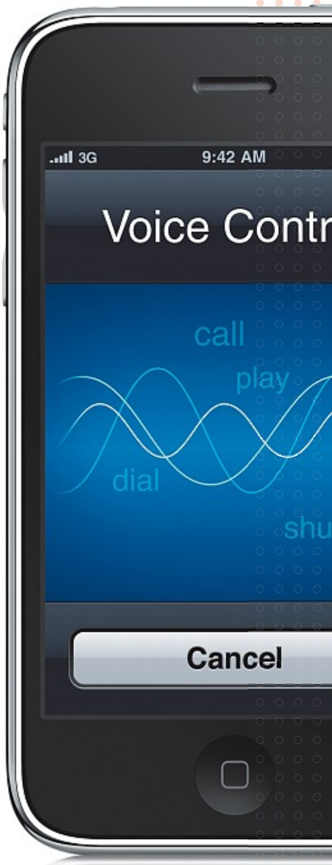
Oldies but goldies?

The iPhone 3.0 firmware brings with it useful MMS, voice memos, copy and paste, and most of the new developer options to the 3G. It also tightens up on performance, producing noticeably faster load times for some web pages. If these extra software elements make it bearable enough to hold onto your 3G until the end of your contract, then you could even then be able to make a profit by trading in your old phone when upgrading to the 3GS instead of just minimising loss.

The downside is that you may just find yourself locked into yet another contract with longer to wait when the next iPhone is released, though you could be even if you upgrade now. Of course, we don't actually know when that will be; we can only go on previous experience.

Another option is an iPod touch, as it offers all the organisational options of the iPhone, but without the monthly payments. It also lacks all of the connectivity except WiFi, though, so it's a question of usefulness.

Does this really tempt you to stick with your old iPhone? Kudos to you if you're strong enough to resist the sirens' lure of the 3GS, but there are some of us who just can't rest easy knowing that there's another iPhone out there that's better than ours. At least we don't have to bankrupt ourselves quelling that feeling. ●



Shouting at the Voice Control program is probably the least subtle way to advertise you have a new 3GS.

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Networking made easy

Adam Banks explains how easy it is to get Macs and gadgets hooked up and online on a home network…

Networking is one of those computer tasks that always conjures up fear. If you've been putting off the job, or you have a sort of semi-network that semi works and can't face the hassle of sorting it out, this article is for you. And it's not as tricky as it looks.

Most networks these days are wireless, based on the 802.11 WiFi standards. The heart of your network is the router: a box that's wired to your internet connection (and usually to your main Mac) and transmits a wireless signal around your home.

Generally, if you get ADSL broadband over a phone line you use one box that acts as both a modem (to connect to the internet) and a router (to share this connection with your devices). Your ISP may supply one, but you can use any standard modem router. If you have cable, on the other hand – currently available only from Virgin Media – you need to stick with the modem supplied, and add a separate router. This is usually any router that doesn't include a modem.

Apple's WiFi routers lack a built-in modem. If you want to use one with ADSL broadband, but already have a modem supplied by your ISP with a built-in router, that's OK – you can either disable the modem's router or leave both routers active. Check your ISP's documentation. Alternatively, you can choose a modem router from another manufacturer.

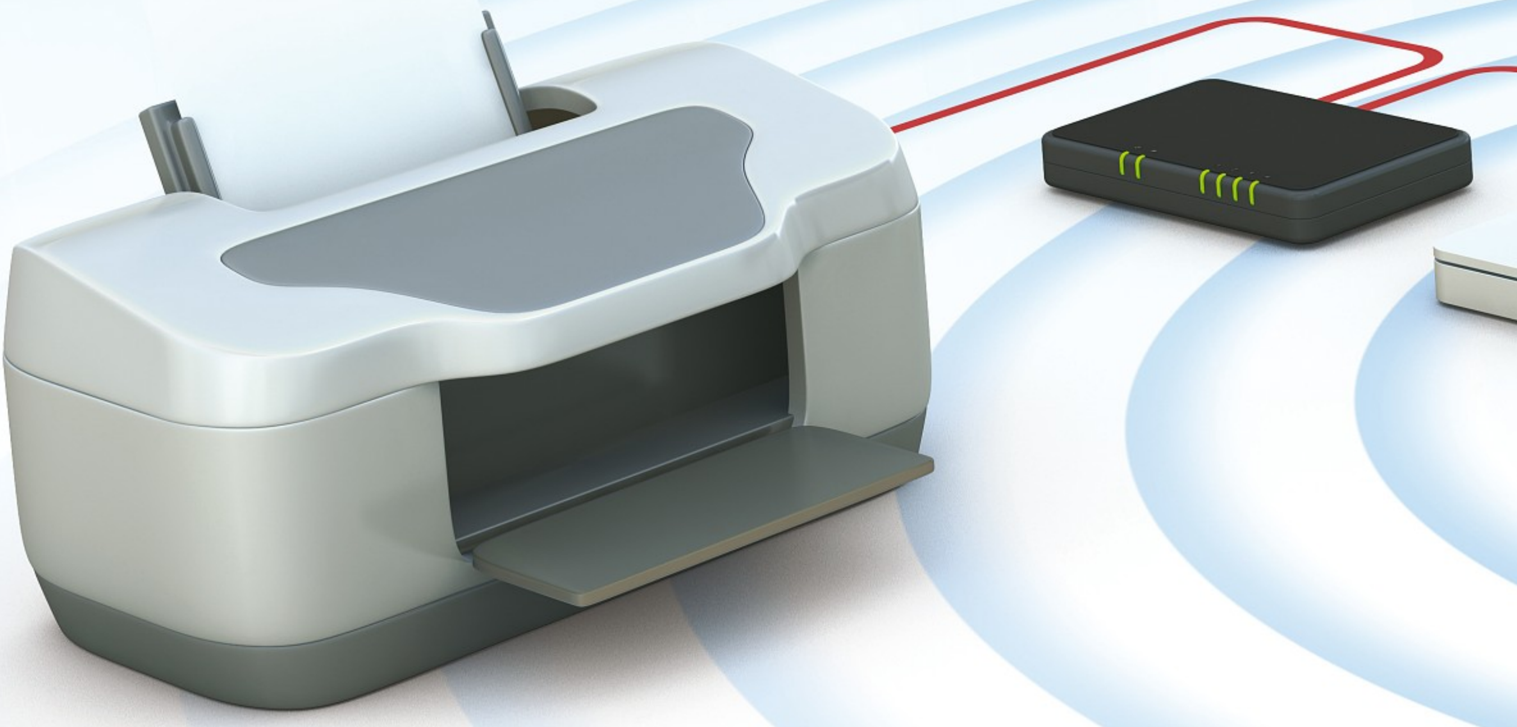


Illustration by MagicTorch

AirPort Express

£79

The AirPort Express is Apple's most basic router. It plugs straight into a mains socket, which is neat, but rather silly. Having it at floor level, amid a tangle of wiring, is the worst possible site for good reception. This aside, the Express works fine as long as you don't need to connect more than ten devices at once. It even lets you choose whether to transmit on the conventional 2.4GHz band or at 5GHz, which helps avoid interference. And, if you wish, you can also plug in a USB printer to make it accessible over the network.

Besides acting as a router, the Express can also be used to stream music from your Mac to a hi-fi system elsewhere in the house. You simply plug an Express into a mains socket near your stereo, and attach it with an audio cable; the Express will then connect wirelessly to your router (whether that's another Express or any other model) to convey whatever's playing in *iTunes* to your speakers. This is a cool use for the Express, but it could be expensive as each unit comes in at £79 each.

> *"The Express can also be used to stream music from your Mac to a hi-fi elsewhere in the house"*

You can extend your wireless network with the AirPort Express.

AirPort Extreme

£139

The AirPort Extreme is a more powerful router than the Express, designed to sit on a desk or shelf. It lets you connect and share an external hard disk as well as a printer (though to attach both you'll need to spend extra on an external USB hub) and can run two networks simultaneously, one on each band (see the dual band routers box on page 34). It allows up to 50 users at once, and you can offer an internet connection to guests without giving them full access to your network. The four wired ports (the Express has just one) support Gigabit Ethernet, which is good if you have one or more Macs that you want to connect with cables, at the fastest possible speeds.

The Extreme doesn't have an audio connection, but will stream your tunes to as many AirPort Expresses as you wish. At £139, it's not bad value, but lacks advanced features such as port triggering and dynamic DNS, which you might need to run web services that are accessible to other users.

The AirPort Extreme is Apple's main WiFi router solution.

>> QUICK TIP / Alternatives to WiFi

Today's 802.11n WiFi gives enough range and speed to satisfy most requirements, but you might hit trouble if you have an outbuilding at the end of a long garden, or unusually thick walls…

A reliable alternative is to run Ethernet cables everywhere. You'll still need a router, or at least an Ethernet switch, to turn the single port on your broadband modem into four or more ports to which the cabling can be attached. Buy modern Cat6 cable on a reel, install it like any electrical wiring, then add a plug on each end. All the bits are available from stores such as **www.maplin.co.uk**.

Or you could use the wires that run around your house carrying electricity. Adaptors feed data in through the mains and get it out again. They conform to two sets of standards, HomePlug and PowerLine, but you need adaptors of the same brand. Performance is comparable to 802.11n. Specialist brands include Solwise and Devolo, while the mainstream Belkin, Linksys and Netgear also have kits.

You connect the master adaptor to your router and add another wherever you want access. Each device connects to an adaptor with an Ethernet cable, so you can't wander around with your laptop or connect gadgets that have WiFi but lack Ethernet, such as an iPhone. But, there are bridge adaptors that can create a WiFi access point wherever there's a mains socket.

CISCO
LINKSYS
LINKSYS

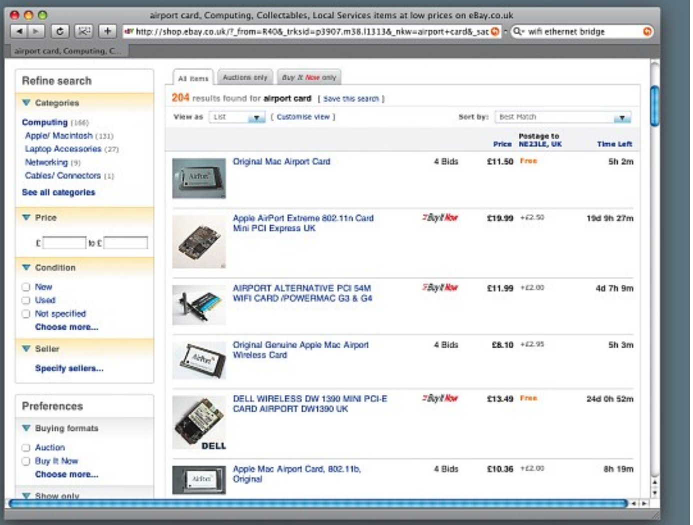
Mains networking adaptors use your home's electrical wiring to carry data between Macs.

» QUICK TIP / What no WiFi?

All recent Macs have WiFi built in, so they're ready to connect to your router. To check whether your Mac has WiFi, go to **About This Mac** on the menu, click **More Info…**, find **Network** in the **Contents** list on the left (click the triangle to see the items within), and look for **AirPort Card**. Clicking this will tell you what type of adaptor you have: AirPort Extreme means 802.11n or g, plain AirPort means older and slower.

If you have a computer without WiFi, and it's running Mac OS X, Windows XP or higher, or a modern Linux installation, you should be able to plug in a USB WiFi adaptor. Modern WiFi gear is the same for Macs and PCs, but in some cases you may need Mac driver software, and for older machines check compatibility (find system requirements online). Some Macs can take internal WiFi upgrades, but compatibility must suit your model.

Even computers too old to support WiFi can be connected if they have an Ethernet port. Just add a WiFi 'bridge' device, such as an AirPort Express or Belkin's Wireless G Gaming Adapter (£28 from Amazon). This connects to your router and provides an Ethernet port. Some adaptors have to be matched to a router from the same company, but some, such as Macsense AeroPad Mini, work with any router.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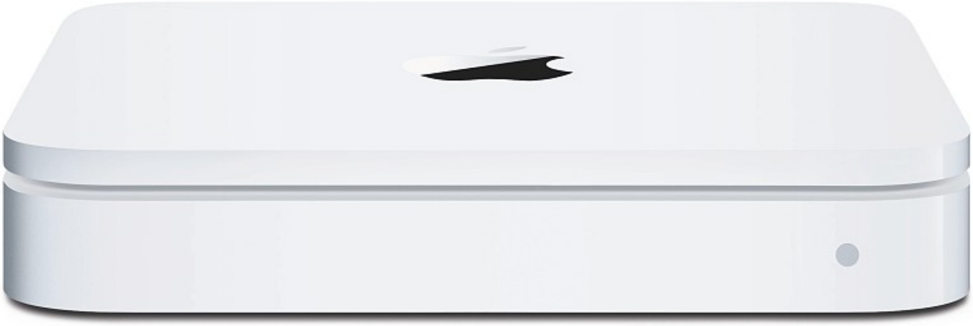
£ to £
Condition
New
Used
Not specified
Choose more...
Seller
Specify sellers...
Preferences
Buying formats
Auction
Buy It Now
Choose more...
Show only
All items
Auctions only
Buy It Now only
View as
List
Customise view
Sort by:
Best Match

204 results found for **airport card** [Save this search]

		Price	Postage to NE23LE, UK	Time Left
Original Mac Airport Card	4 Bids	£11.50	Free	5h 2m
Apple AirPort Extreme 802.11n Card Mini PCI Express UK	Buy It Now	£19.99	+£2.50	19d 9h 27m
AIRPORT ALTERNATIVE PCI 54M WIFI CARD /POWERMAC G3 & G4	Buy It Now	£11.99	+£2.00	4d 7h 9m
Original Genuine Apple Mac Airport Wireless Card	4 Bids	£8.10	+£2.95	5h 3m
DELL WIRELESS DW 1390 MINI PCI-E CARD AIRPORT DW1390 UK	Buy It Now	£13.49	Free	24d 0h 52m
Apple Mac Airport Card, 802.11b, Original	4 Bids	£10.36	+£2.00	8h 19m

Find AirPort upgrades for older Macs on eBay, but you must check compatibility.



> *"The Time Capsule sorts out your networking and backup requirements in a single box"*

Time Capsule

£229 (500GB) or £379 (1TB)

Apple's Time Capsule combines the same router capabilities as the AirPort Extreme Base Station with a built-in 500GB or 1TB hard drive. This integrates with Mac OS X Leopard's *Time Machine* feature and will handily keep all the Macs on your network backed up, all the time – provided they're all running Leopard, that is.

You'll find that it costs a considerable amount more than buying a third-party router and hard disk, especially for the 1TB version. Therefore, the main reason to consider buying one is to sort out all your networking and backup requirements in a single box that's easy to set up and maintain – which is by no means a bad reason at all. As with the Extreme, you can attach and share an external hard disk if you need more in the way of networked storage at a later date.

Mbps
23.760
download
Broadband Speed
menu
OK
BELKIN

Third-party router

Around £40 to £150

Your ISP may well provide a WiFi modem router, in which case you're all set. However, if it's an old 802.11g model, it's worth thinking about upgrading to the newer 802.11n, also known as 'Draft n.' Devices sold now are guaranteed compatible with future versions.

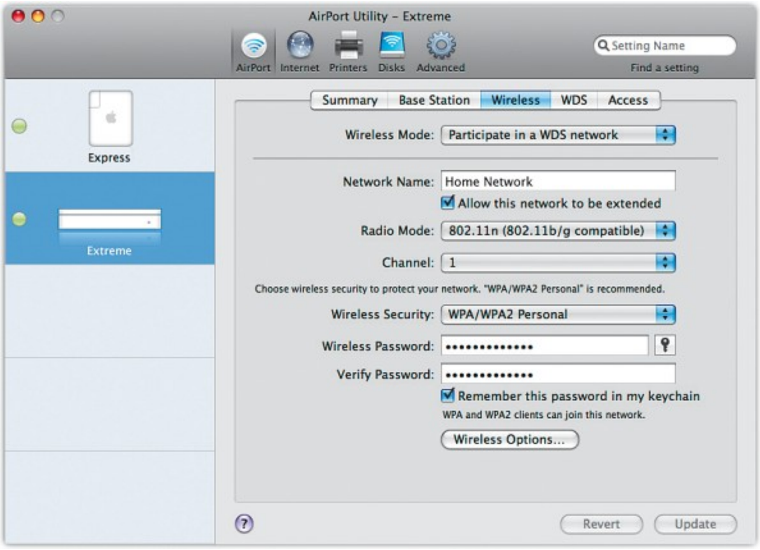
Apple's current routers are based on this standard, and it increases speed and range. You'll never see the theoretically possible 300Mbit/sec, but you can expect between 15 and 75Mbit/sec with good reception, and you should get a usable signal up to about 30 metres from the base, depending on how many walls and floors are in between. Older 802.11a, b or g devices can still connect (double-check this in the router's specs before buying), and though they won't get the higher speeds, they should benefit from increased range. »

Set up your network

The first step is to get your WiFi router up and running.

Whichever router you choose, the various 802.11 WiFi standards – a, b, g and n – are inter-compatible, so you should be able to connect most WiFi devices. If you have older devices, check the router's backward compatibility before buying. There's no problem using components from different makers, but if you're buying a router and one or more WiFi adaptors at the same time, it makes sense to get matching units from the same brand. In almost all cases this will improve performance.

If you're shopping for a used AirPort base station, note that earlier models, along with the AirPort chips in pre-Intel Macs, were 802.11g. Whatever your router's capability, the speed of the network depends on the lowliest device, so you won't see the full benefit of 802.11n while you have older kit connected.



Wireless Mode: Participate in a WDS network

Network Name: Home Network

☑ Allow this network to be extended

Radio Mode: 802.11n (802.11b/g compatible)

Channel: 1

Choose wireless security to protect your network. "WPA/WPA2 Personal" is recommended.

Wireless Security: WPA/WPA2 Personal

Wireless Password: •••••••••••••

Verify Password: •••••••••••••

☑ Remember this password in my keychain

WPA and WPA2 clients can join this network.

You can extend your network with multiple AirPort base stations thanks to WDS support.

A third-party router needn't be specifically Mac-compatible, but buying one that lists your version of Mac OS X among its system requirements provides reassurance. Routers with identical specifications on paper aren't created equal; reviews from magazines and websites can help identify which models perform best. Don't pay too much attention to user comments, which often reflect non-reproducible problems such as poor reception and foolishness.

Router wrangling

Setting up your router shouldn't be hard. The first step is to connect its WAN port to your internet point – via the cable modem if you're on Virgin – and one of its LAN ports (there'll be four of them on any router except an AirPort Express) to your Mac with an Ethernet cable. With some luck there'll be a cable supplied with your router.

Apple's base stations are designed to work with your Mac out of the box, and use software within Mac OS X to give easy access to all their features. Third-party routers are usually configured in a web browser: having cabled the router to your Mac, you type in the supplied URL (try **192.168.2.0** or **192.168.2.1** if in doubt) to get a page showing you the options.

There shouldn't be much you need to tweak before your router will successfully connect to the internet and to your devices. If it's an ADSL modem router, you may need to enter settings for your ISP, but many routers now automate this. By default, your router should automatically assign an IP (Internet Protocol) address to each device you connect, enabling them to identify each other on the network. This is known as DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol).

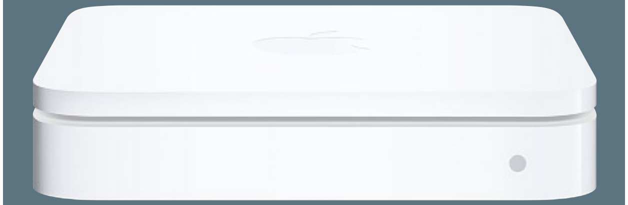
> *"If you're buying a router and WiFi adaptors it makes sense to get matching units"*

If you have trouble getting your new router onto the internet, one possibility is that your connection depends on the MAC address of the device that's trying to connect. We'll

» HOW TO / Dual band routers

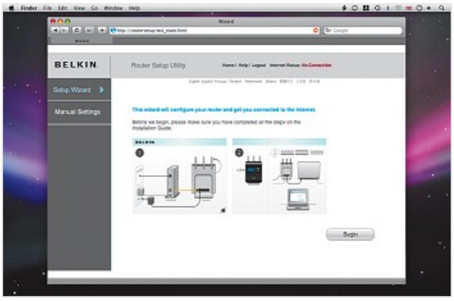
Regardless of whether they're 802.11a, b, g or n, WiFi routers broadcast their signal in the 2.4GHz waveband. This is also used by Bluetooth, car alarms, radio controlled devices and microwave ovens. So, it's not surprising that interference is a cause of poor WiFi performance. Some routers enable you to use the 5.8GHz band instead, which should cut out the interference (until your neighbour buys a 5.8GHz router too). Or you can run both bands simultaneously, giving you two independent networks. This is supported by Apple's AirPort Extreme and some third-party routers. But, any devices you connect must also support 5.8GHz, or they won't pick up the signal.

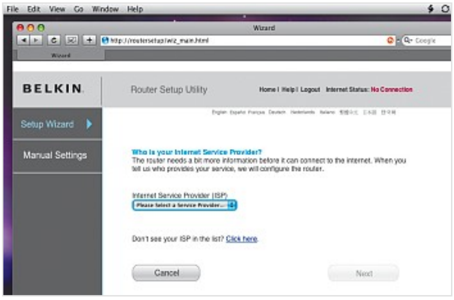
You can run a 5.8GHz network for your most important machines, connecting only 802.11n devices to maximise the speed, plus a 2.4GHz network for other devices and guests.



Simultaneous dual band routers give you two networks in one.

» HOW TO / Setting up your router

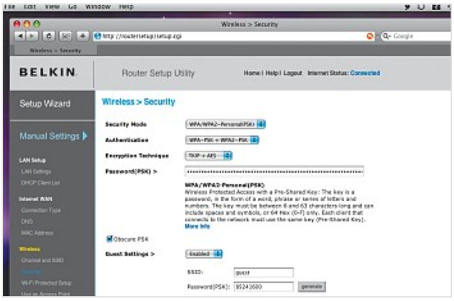



File Edit View Go Window Help
Wizard
http://routersetup/wiz_main.html
BELKIN
Router Setup Utility
Home | Help | Logout Internet Status: No Connection
Setup Wizard
Manual Settings
Cancel
Next

Who is your Internet Service Provider?
The router needs a bit more information before it can connect to the internet. When you tell us who provides your service, we will configure the router.

Internet Service Provider (ISP): Please select a Service Provider...

Don't see your ISP in the list? Click here.


Wireless > Security
BELKIN
Router Setup Utility
Home | Help | Logout Internet Status: Connected
Setup Wizard
Manual Settings
Wireless > Security
Security Mode
Authentication
Encryption Technique
Password(PSK) >
Obscure PSK
Guest Settings >
generate

01 Connect the router

Connect the router to the internet (via your modem if it isn't built in) and to your Mac and switch it on. If it's an AirPort, use the Apple setup utility. If not, open *Safari* and enter the supplied URL, either an IP address such as **192.168.2.1** or something like **routersetup**.

02 Setting up the router

A modem router will need settings for your ISP; common ones may be offered automatically. Cable routers need little set up. If you can't get a connection, turn off the router and modem for a minute. Still no luck? Try the maker's website or your ISP's helpline.

03 Setting up security

Once you're connected, you should be invited to set up security; this can also be done via the manual settings. Follow the tips in this article. Some routers have a 'guest mode' that lets users log in with a password for internet access only. ●

talk more about MAC addresses later; they're just unique codes that identify a network device, something like 01:2a:3b:45:6c:7d. Your ISP's server may be accustomed to seeing your main Mac's MAC address. This can be found in the **Network** pane of *System Preferences*: select **Ethernet**, click the **Advanced** button, go to the **Ethernet** tab and note the Ethernet ID.

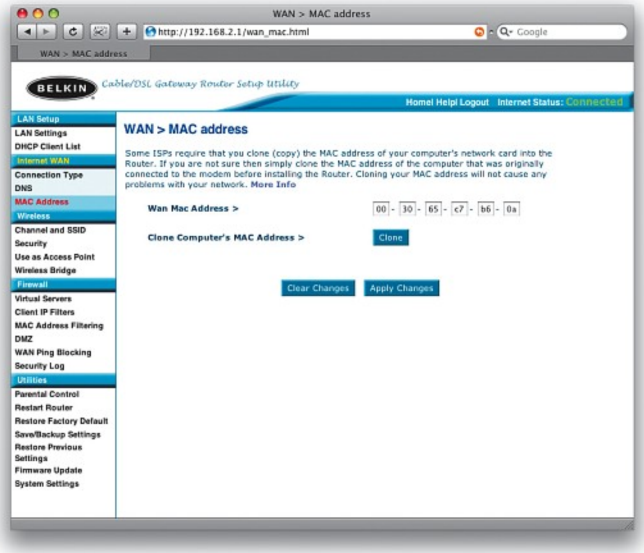
Your new router will have an option to swap its original MAC address for another, known as spoofing. It may offer to clone your Mac's address, or you can enter it manually. This done, your ISP's server will be none the wiser about your upgrade and should let you connect as before. Alternatively, you could check your new router's own MAC address (found in its setup utility) and register this with your ISP.

Secure the perimeter

Something you do need to configure carefully is security. You'd be very unwise to leave a WiFi network unprotected. Not so much because other users could access your private files – any resources you make accessible over the network should be password-protected anyway, as we'll see later – but because you don't want them sharing your internet connection. One *MacFormat* writer with an unsecured router found nine neighbours connected simultaneously. There's also the possibility of people parking outside your house and hijacking your WiFi. Unwittingly sharing your connection will reduce the speed you get yourself.

A number of different security protocols have been used for WiFi, and you'll need to pick one supported both by your router and by all the computers and gadgets you want to connect. Older devices will offer WEP, but WPA is much more secure, so choose this if you can. (Some routers also suffer reduced performance when running WEP.) Within the WPA options, your router may give you a choice between TKIP and AES encryption, or may support WPA 2, which is better again and uses the stronger AES as standard. Macs running OS X will handle at least WPA, as do Windows Vista PCs; Windows XP users need *Service Pack 2*, and for WPA 2 may need the patch available at http://tinyurl.com/wpa2xp.

> *"Configure security carefully. You'd be unwise to leave a WiFi network unprotected…"*


WAN > MAC address
http://192.168.2.1/wan_mac.html
Google
BELKIN
Cable/DSL Gateway Router Setup Utility
Home| Help| Logout
LAN Setup
LAN Settings
DHCP Client List
Internet WAN
Connection Type
DNS
MAC Address
Wireless
Channel and SSID
Security
Use as Access Point
Wireless Bridge
Firewall
Virtual Servers
Client IP Filters
MAC Address Filtering
DMZ
WAN Ping Blocking
Security Log
Utilities
Parental Control
Restart Router
Restore Factory Default
Save/Backup Settings
Restore Previous Settings
Firmware Update
System Settings
Clone
Clear Changes
Apply Changes

Internet Status: Connected

WAN > MAC address

Some ISPs require that you clone (copy) the MAC address of your computer's network card into the Router. If you are not sure then simply clone the MAC address of the computer that was originally connected to the modem before installing the Router. Cloning your MAC address will not cause any problems with your network. More Info

Wan Mac Address > 00 - 30 - 65 - c7 - b6 - 0a

Clone Computer's MAC Address >

You may need to match up your router's MAC address to your existing internet connection.

Some routers offer an automated 'one-touch' security setup, but this will only work with matching branded adaptors. Instructions will be provided for setting up WEP or WPA manually. If there's a choice of **Enterprise** or **Personal mode** for WPA, choose **Personal** (or **PSK**). To set up WPA you'll be asked for a passphrase, which can be anything from eight to 63 characters long. Having set this on the router, you'll need to enter it on each device you connect.

You may be tempted to choose a short, easy phrase to type in, but this will leave you vulnerable. It's worth using a long passphrase containing randomly selected characters; if your router doesn't create one, there are sites that will, including **http://tinyurl.com/wpakey**. »

» MORE INFO
Need help securing your network? See our tutorial on page 62.

Getting connected

Get all your computers talking to each other, and to your printer

Once your router is set up, make sure your computers and gadgets can join your network. Those that are wired to the router with an Ethernet cable should automatically find themselves connected: just open a web browser and try Google to check. Via WiFi, you'll need to tell each device to find and join your network. On a Mac, go to the AirPort pane of *System Preferences*, select AirPort, click Turn AirPort On, then click the Network Name from the drop-down menu and choose your router from the list. You should see a padlock beside your network name to indicate that it's encrypted, and on selecting it you'll be asked for a WEP or WPA passphrase. Enter it and tick Remember this network.

On an iPhone or iPod touch, open Settings and click WiFi. Turn on WiFi and wait for your network name to show up under Choose a Network. Switch off Ask to Join Networks so that you'll always connect whenever you arrive home.

» NAS / All-round entertainment

If you have an AirPort base station, you can plug in an external USB hard disk to use over the network; some third-party routers also offer this feature. Alternatively, you can buy a hard disk with an Ethernet port, also known as NAS (network-attached storage), and plug this into your router. These devices can be a bit fiddly to set up, but you shouldn't have to brave the full range of technical settings.

In *The Essential iTunes and iPod Handbook* (available from **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/macformatpresents**) we reviewed six NAS boxes that make ideal *iTunes* servers. Copy all your music to it and you can access it from *iTunes* on any connected Mac or PC. However, tracks bought in protected formats will only play on your five authorised devices.

Our favourite network drive was the Iomega Home Media Network Hard Drive 500GB, which is brilliantly simple to set up and use.

The Iomega is a cinch to use, although it does come with fewer features.

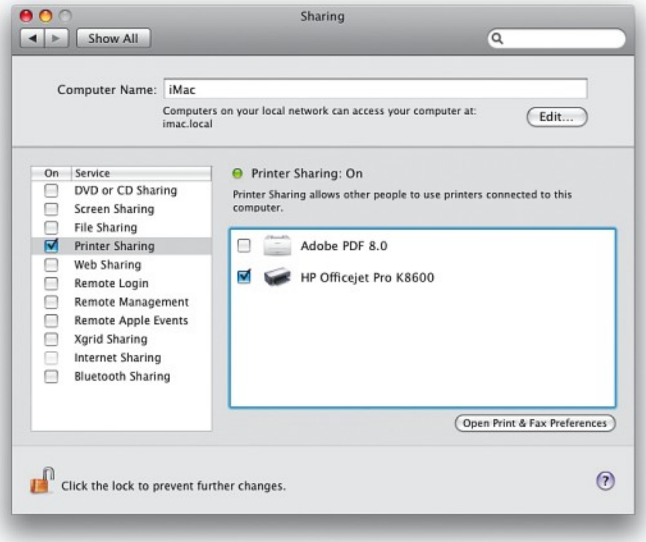
Stay safe

It's great to be connected, but remember to prevent unwanted connections too. Aside from the security measures we've already covered, another way to prevent unauthorised users is MAC address filtering. MAC stands for Media Access Control, and has nothing to do with Macintosh. Every network adaptor has a MAC address consisting of six pairs of hexadecimal digits. In your router's setup page, turning on MAC filtering means no device can be connected unless its address matches the one you've entered into a list. It's not good protection against serious hackers, since MAC addresses can be faked, but it's okay against casual logins.

You can use MAC filtering in addition to encryption or, as a last resort, as your sole security method if you can't get WEP or WPA working. You'll need to add the MAC addresses of guests' devices as well as your own. The MAC address of a Mac can be found in the Network pane of *System Preferences*; Ethernet (wired connections) and AirPort each have their own MAC address, so you need the appropriate one depending on how this Mac will connect to the router. For AirPort, select AirPort on the left, click the Advanced button on the right, and find the AirPort ID at the foot of the AirPort tab. (If your version of Mac OS X is pre-Leopard, select AirPort, click Configure, then find the AirPort ID under AirPort.) You can copy and paste this into your router's setup page.

Finally, an extra form of security provided by almost all routers is a built-in firewall. This helps prevent machines on your network being attacked via the internet. Configuring a firewall is beyond the scope of this article, but in most cases it should work fine out of the box. It's worth checking (in the router setup) that it's

> *"MAC stands for Media Access Control and has nothing to do with Macintosh"*



Sharing

Computer Name: iMac

Computers on your local network can access your computer at: imac.local

On	Service
☐	DVD or CD Sharing
☐	Screen Sharing
☐	File Sharing
☑	Printer Sharing
☐	Web Sharing
☐	Remote Login
☐	Remote Management
☐	Remote Apple Events
☐	Xgrid Sharing
☐	Internet Sharing
☐	Bluetooth Sharing

Printer Sharing: On

Printer Sharing allows other people to use printers connected to this computer.

☐ Adobe PDF 8.0
☑ HP Officejet Pro K8600

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

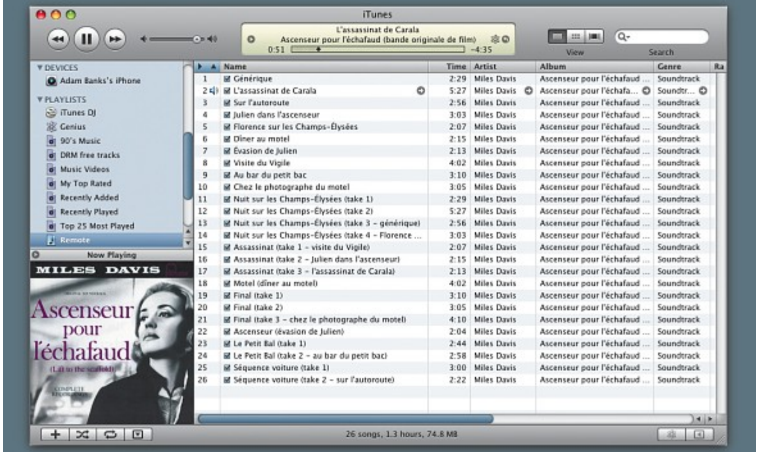
You can share a printer connected to one Mac with others that are on the network.

» REMOTE CONTROL / iPhone style

If you have an iPhone or iPod touch, download the free *Remote* app from Apple for a new way of controlling *iTunes* on your Mac via your WiFi network. It also works with Apple TV.

The basic idea is that you use the iPhone as a remote control - one with a nice big screen instead of just buttons. With the app installed, the name of your iPhone appears under **Devices** in *iTunes*' **Source** pane on all your networked Macs. A passcode is displayed on your iPhone and you type this into *iTunes* to connect the iPhone to your music library. You can then see all your playlists on the iPhone, search through your music and control playback.

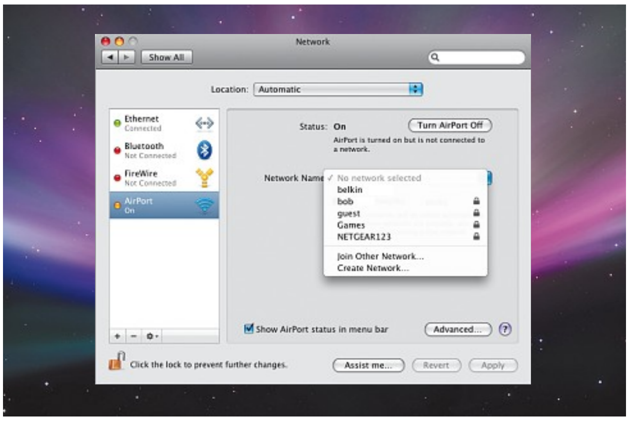
You have to be within earshot of your Mac to hear the music anyway, so why not just control it on screen? Well, using the iPhone means you don't have to pull up *iTunes* in front of what you're working on, and it's fun. The catch is that the iPhone keeps going to sleep, so when you go to change a track you have to wait several seconds for it to reconnect. You can opt to stay connected, but this will run down the battery.



	Name	Time	Artist	Album	Genre
1	Générique	2:29	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
2	L'assassinat de Carala	5:27	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafa...	Soundtr...
3	Sur l'autoroute	2:56	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
4	Julien dans l'ascenseur	3:03	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
5	Florence sur les Champs-Élysées	2:07	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
6	Dîner au motel	2:15	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
7	Évasion de Julien	2:13	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
8	Visite du Vigile	4:02	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
9	Au bar du petit bac	3:10	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
10	Chez le photographe du motel	3:05	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
11	Nuit sur les Champs-Élysées (take 1)	2:29	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
12	Nuit sur les Champs-Élysées (take 2)	5:27	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
13	Nuit sur les Champs-Élysées (take 3 – générique)	2:56	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
14	Nuit sur les Champs-Élysées (take 4 – Florence ...	3:03	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
15	Assassinat (take 1 – visite du Vigile)	2:07	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
16	Assassinat (take 2 – Julien dans l'ascenseur)	2:15	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
17	Assassinat (take 3 – l'assassinat de Carala)	2:13	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
18	Motel (dîner au motel)	4:02	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
19	Final (take 1)	3:10	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
20	Final (take 2)	3:05	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
21	Final (take 3 – chez le photographe du motel)	4:10	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
22	Ascenseur (évasion de Julien)	2:04	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
23	Le Petit Bal (take 1)	2:44	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
24	Le Petit Bal (take 2 – au bar du petit bac)	2:58	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
25	Séquence voiture (take 1)	3:00	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack
26	Séquence voiture (take 2 – sur l'autoroute)	2:22	Miles Davis	Ascenseur pour l'échafaud ...	Soundtrack

26 songs, 1.3 hours, 74.8 MB

Control your Mac's iTunes from your iPhone or iPod touch with the free Remote app.



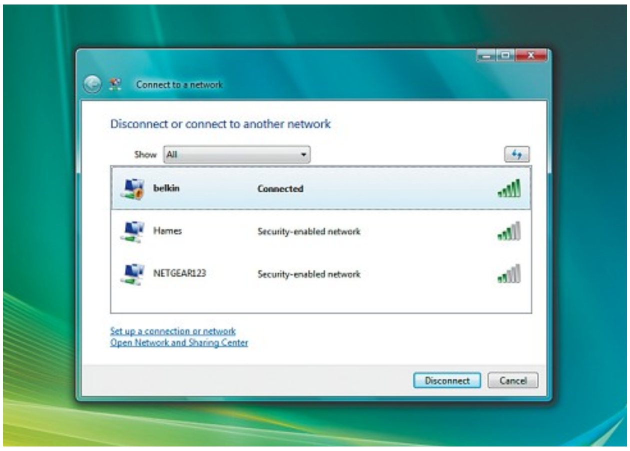
Location: Automatic

Status: On

AirPort is turned on but is not connected to a network.

☑ Show AirPort status in menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.


Connect to a network
Show
All
Set up a connection or network
Open Network and Sharing Center
Disconnect
Cancel

Disconnect or connect to another network

belkin	Connected
Hames	Security-enabled network
NETGEAR123	Security-enabled network

It's easy to connect to a WiFi network - just be sure to select yours, and not next door's...

turned on, and remembering to try turning it off if you ever have problems with internet apps.

Besides the application-based Firewall configured in the **Security** pane of *System Preferences*, Mac OS X also includes a Unix-based firewall that most users won't even be aware of but runs constantly to prevent intrusion. You can also use **Parental Controls**, found under **System** in *System Preferences*, to govern what each user account can and can't do.

Share and share alike

Being on the same network means your devices can share both your internet connection and other resources. One of the handiest benefits is wireless printing. An ordinary USB printer connected to any Mac or PC on your network will be accessible to any other Mac or PC, as long as they're all switched on.

> *"Being on the same network means devices can share net connection and other resources"*

To share a printer, open *System Preferences* on the Mac that the printer is connected to and go to **Sharing**. (Click the **Services** tab if you're using Mac OS X 10.4 or earlier.) Tick **Printer Sharing** and click this item to choose which printers to share. If you're a *Creative Suite* user, the list will include Adobe's PDF virtual printers. (Pre-Leopard, find the list of printers by clicking **Show All** to go back to the *System Preferences* pane, choose **Print & Fax**, then click **Sharing**.)

To access your shared printer from another Mac, just go to File > Print in any app, click the printer from the drop-down menu and choose **Add Printer**. Printers available on your network will be listed here along with those physically plugged into the Mac. Select the one you want and wait to ensure a suitable driver is found for it, which will appear under **Print Using**. To access the features of your printer, you should install its driver software on any machine from which you want to use it. Once added, your shared printer will automatically appear among the available printers on the other Mac in the future (under **Shared Printers** in Mac OS X 10.4 and earlier).

You can also access your shared printer from Windows machines. If it doesn't appear under **Select Printer** in the **Print** dialog, click **Find Printer** to open the **Network** view, double-click the name of the Mac the printer is physically connected to (although you may need to log in at this point, and you should then be able to see and select the printer. Vista may report that the printer's status is **Access denied, unable to connect**, but like so many other Windows error messages, this is tosh. »

Share your files

Let your Macs (and PCs) see each other's files and folders

As well as using shared resources, all your networked machines can access each other's files and folders. To do this, though, they need permission.

On a Mac, you use the **Sharing** pane in *System Preferences* to decide which folders other users can see. Much the same options are available in all versions of Mac OS X, but they've been rearranged over time, so in earlier versions you may need to browse around a bit.

In the left panel of the **Sharing** pane (within the **Services** tab pre-Leopard), tick **File Sharing** and click this item to see which folders are currently shared. Initially, the only one will be the **Public Folder** inside your **Home** folder – the one in Macintosh HD >Users that has a little house icon. By default, with **File Sharing** on, other users can open files from this folder but can't save anything into it. In Leopard, the **Public Folder** also has a subfolder called **Drop Box**; users can copy files into this, but can't edit existing files.

On a home network, you may want more comprehensive access, while still keeping important stuff away from the kids or accident-prone flatmates. This is handled through user accounts. Although you may have forgotten about user accounts if you're the only person who uses your Mac. You are in fact logged into your system under a particular identity at any given time. If you click **Accounts** under **System** in *System Preferences*, you'll see your own account at the top, normally classed as **Admin** (administrator), and any others you've created below, plus **Guest Account**, which applies to anyone who logs in without a username and password. To control access, you should create a user account for each other person you want to allow into your Mac.

> *"You may want more comprehensive access, while keeping stuff away from the kids"*

Who goes there?

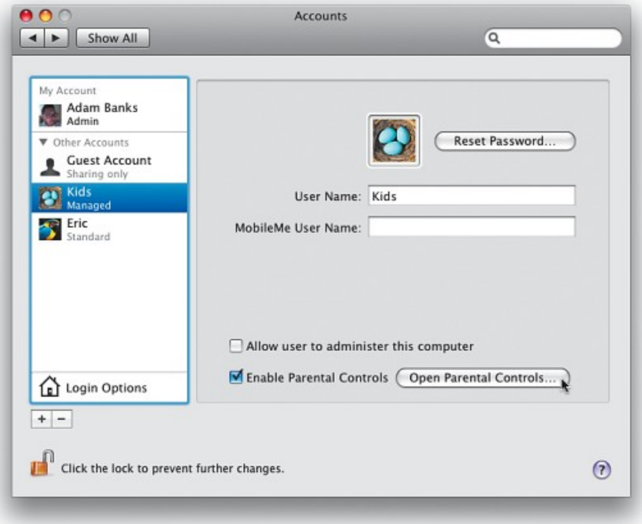
Back in the **File Sharing** pane, clicking a shared folder shows who's allowed to do what. For example, you have Read and Write access to your **Public Folder**; any other user is allowed to read only; and so is **Everyone**, that is, all of the above plus guests. Click permissions to change them. Choose **No Access** (or click the minus icon below) to deny this set of users any access to the selected item.

To share more, click the + sign below the **Shared Folders** column and select a folder – you could pick your whole hard disk, but it's safer to be more specific – then edit its permissions. Bear in mind that, if you log into this Mac from another using this Mac's administrator name and password (the same one you use when unlocking *System Preferences* or installing new apps), you can access any files while **File Sharing** is turned on, so you don't need to give yourself specific permissions.

Another way to share a folder is from *Finder*. Select any folder and press ⌘+I to **Get Info**, then look under **Sharing & Permissions**. Click the padlock icon and enter your admin details to make changes.

To access a shared folder from another Mac, select **Network** from *Finder*'s **Go** menu and you should see all the machines on your network. Double-click the one you want. In Leopard, you're then automatically logged in to that machine with the user account currently active on the Mac you're using. To log in with a different name and password (for

Creating user accounts lets you decide who can access what and impose parental controls.



User Name: Kids

MobileMe User Name:

☐ Allow user to administer this computer

☑ Enable Parental Controls

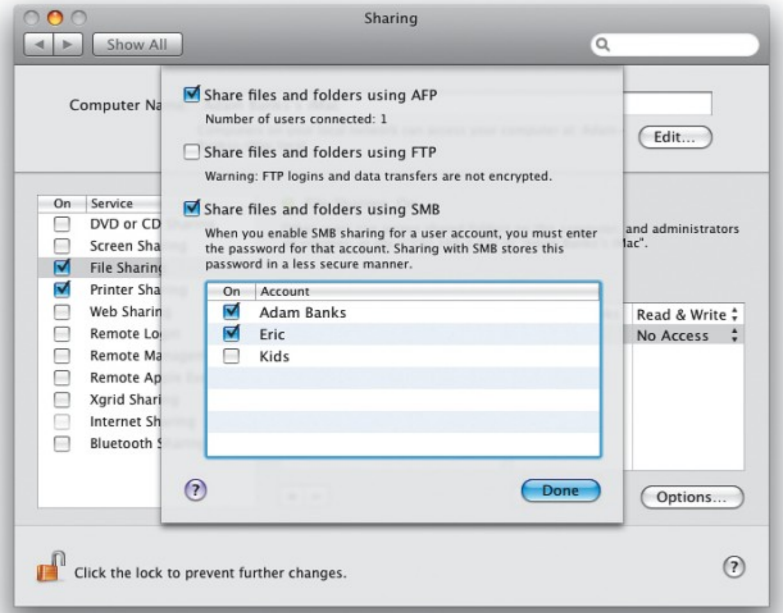
Click the lock to prevent further changes.

>> FREE PHONE / Using VoIP via WiFi

BELKIN
Skype
6:23 AM
skype
Menu
Contacts

VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) services such as Skype are getting more popular as people realise they can save a fortune on their landline bills. Phone anybody who uses the same service, completely free, in any country (and use video to boot), and by signing up for a paid subscription you can call ordinary phones at low rates. But you have to sit at your Mac to make calls.

Well, not with a WiFi network. Install *Skype* on your MacBook and you can make calls from anywhere in the house or garden. And you can buy VoIP handsets that connect wirelessly. There are three main types of system: base stations that plug into your router and communicate with a handset via DECT cordless phone technology; base stations that plug into your Mac via USB, which don't require WiFi; and standalone WiFi handsets that connect directly to your router. The first two give you the option of a phone that works both for VoIP and landline calls. You can find a wide range of VoIP phones in electronics stores or from specialists such as **www.i-voip.co.uk**.


Sharing
Show All
Computer Na
Edit…
On
Service
DVD or CD
Screen Sha
File Sharin
Printer Sha
Web Sharin
Remote Lo
Remote Ma
Remote Ap
Xgrid Shari
Internet Sh
Bluetooth
and administrators
Read & Write
No Access
Done
Options…

☑ Share files and folders using AFP
Number of users connected: 1
☐ Share files and folders using FTP
Warning: FTP logins and data transfers are not encrypted.
☑ Share files and folders using SMB
When you enable SMB sharing for a user account, you must enter the password for that account. Sharing with SMB stores this password in a less secure manner.

On	Account
☑	Adam Banks
☑	Eric
☐	Kids

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

If you have PCs on your network, turn on SMB to make sure everyone can find each other.

example, your admin account), click Disconnect to downgrade yourself to a Guest, then Connect As… to enter your own login.

In Mac OS X 10.4 and earlier, when you double-click a machine you're invited to enter a name and password; or, select Guest to skip this and see only shares available to Everyone.

Through the Windows

You can also access your shared resources from a PC. First you need to tell your Mac to play nicely with Windows over your network. Go to *System Preferences* and click Sharing. In Mac OS X 10.4 or earlier, tick Windows Sharing on the left, then select this item and click Accounts to choose which user account(s) Windows users will be allowed to use when logging in. In Leopard, select File Sharing instead, click the Options button and tick Share files and folders using SMB, then tick the accounts you want to make available to Windows.

From a Windows Vista PC that's on your network, click the Start orb and select Network from the panel on the right. This takes you to View computers and devices in Network and Sharing Center, where you should see your Mac listed. If a yellow warning bar says some network computers and devices might not be visible, click it and turn on network discovery and file sharing, clicking the No option to keep your network private. Your Mac should now be visible, either with the name you've given it (but all in capital letters), such as MYIMAC, or identified by its MAC address, such as MAC012A3B456C6D.

Double-click your Mac's icon and you'll be asked for a username and password. The trick is to first enter the name of your Mac, as on the icon, then a backslash, then your user account name: for example, MYIMAC\MyName. Add your password and you should be in. You'll see any shared devices, such as printers, as well as any shared folders accessible to this account.

> *"You can access your shared resources from a PC. First you need to tell your Mac to play nicely…"*

If you've tried this and can't get it to work, you may need to change an obscure Vista security setting. This involves editing the Windows registry, so take care. Click the Start orb, type regedit and press ↵. In the left pane, use the disclosure triangles to navigate to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa. On the right, right-click the item LmCompatibilityLevel and choose Modify. Change the number under Value data to 1. Click OK, then close the Registry Editor box. Not only does this work, it also serves as a useful reminder why you're a Mac user…

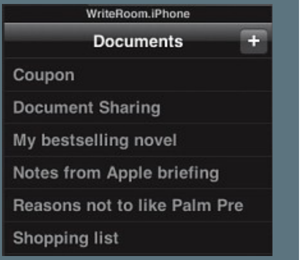
To share folders on your PC over the network, you'll find the options in the main screen of the Network and Sharing Center; find it by clicking the Start orb and type network into the search box. You'll find plenty of Windows-to-Mac networking tips at http://tinyurl.com/macxp, and there are up-to-date troubleshooting tips at www.macwindows.com. ●

» DO MORE / Share with apps

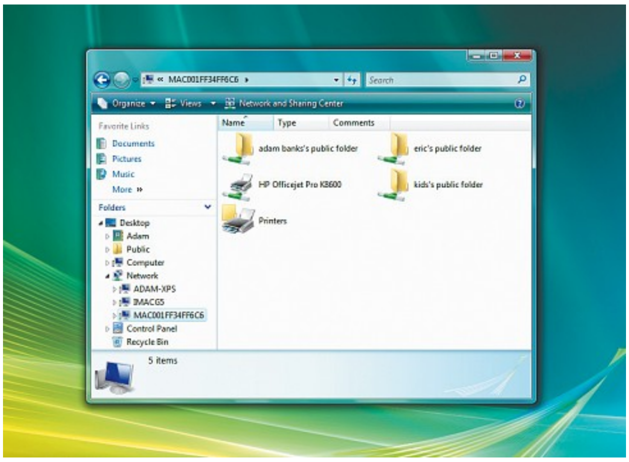
Although your iPhone or iPod touch can join your WiFi network and use your internet connection, there aren't really many opportunities for it to reap the full benefits of networking, because it has no built-in facilities for sharing files or resources.

However, a few apps are opening up possibilities. The popular *WriteRoom* mini word processor (£2.99), which improves on the features of the built-in *Notes*, includes a **Document Sharing** function. Click the icon at the top left of the **Documents** screen and you're given the option to make your documents available at a specified address, such as http://192.168.2.12:52332 (the numbers separated by full stops are the IP address assigned to the device by your router). Click **Yes**, then type this address into any web browser to see a rather lovely graphical facsimile of the same screen, where you can open the same files and cut and paste to other apps.

If you want to go further and don't mind paying a few extra quid, *Air Sharing Pro* (£5.99) offers more comprehensive sharing and even lets you print from your iPhone or iPod touch to a desktop printer via **Printer Sharing**. Find out more at **www.avatron.com**.


WriteRoom.iPhone
Documents
+
Coupon
Document Sharing
My bestselling novel
Notes from Apple briefing
Reasons not to like Palm Pre
Shopping list

Share files on an iPhone or iPod touch over your WiFi network.


MAC001FF34FF6C6
Search
Organize
Views
Network and Sharing Center
Favorite Links
Documents
Pictures
Music
More
Folders
Desktop
Adam
Public
Computer
Network
ADAM-XPS
IMACG5
MAC001FF34FF6C6
Control Panel
Recycle Bin
Name
Type
Comments
adam banks's public folder
eric's public folder
HP Officejet Pro K8600
kid's public folder
Printers
5 items

Logging on from a PC can be slightly fiddly, but once done you have the same sharing access.

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> *"Use thousands of pounds of tech to simulate cheap, trashy cameras"*
> **CREATING LOW-FI LENS EFFECTS** P42

Photoshop Elements File Edit Image Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help
Fri 14:09 MacFormat
EDIT
CREATE
SHARE
Full
Quick
Guided
Effects
Layers
d415-110.psd @ 24.4% (Layer 1, RGB/8*)
Background copy
Layer 1
Background
Palette Bin

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Organise your email 60

SYSTEM

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Fix audio problems 64

How to...

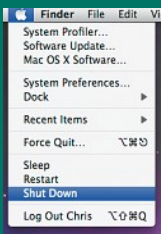
● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

We've spent so long trying to make our images perfect – flawless product renders, photographs so neutral, faithful and accurate they would make Louis Daguerre weep – that we sometimes forget that it's the imperfections in what we create that give it its soul. (How much more would you pay for a car that's hand-finished by craftsmen, rather than one that's built by machine, despite the fact that the latter is probably finished to a higher standard and with finer tolerances?) And so it's with a child-like glee that I invite you to turn the page to Rod Lawton's charming tutorial on creating low-fi lens effects in *Photoshop Elements*. The Lomo-like treatment he gives his shot does nothing for its fidelity, but boy, it sure looks stunning!

Elsewhere, we've packed in the usual stellar *MacFormat* mix of the technical – such as our complete guide to securing your wireless network on p62 – to the creative. Take a look too at Craig Grannell's intro to a handy productivity booster, *Mail Act-On* on p60 – it really turbo-charges Apple's already-solid *Mail* application to help you deal with your email faster!

»DID YOU KNOW?


Finder File Edit Vi
System Profiler...
Software Update...
Mac OS X Software...
System Preferences...
Dock
Recent Items
Force Quit... ⌥⌘⎋
Sleep
Restart
Shut Down
Log Out Chris ⌥⇧⌘Q

If you hold down ⌥ when you click on a menu, you'll sometimes find that the commands will change. The disappearance of the ... from **Shut Down**, for example, means that the confirmation dialog is suppressed.

Photoshop's clipping layers can create lens effects to give images a blurred and distorted look.

Create stunning lens effects

There's a new craze for blurry, distorted photos and it's easy to achieve

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements for Mac (from £68, **www.adobe.com/uk**), some digital photos

Digital cameras reproduce the world with an exactness and a precision that old film cameras never matched. But now that we no longer have those dodgy lenses, films and exposure systems, we want them back!

For all their faults, old film cameras added a distinct look to their pictures. The old photos we treasure have a quirky, imperfect look. Would we really revere those faded snapshots in the boxes under the bed in quite the same way if they had the unchanging, pristine clarity of a modern digital image?

Presumably, this is why Eastern European cameras like the Lomo and the Holga have acquired such a cult following. It's not just that they're cheap and simple to use, it's the blurry edges, the vignetting caused by the simple lenses and the distortion that people love.

But we can't all find/afford a camera like this, and it's a drag getting the films developed and then having to scan in the results. Instead, we can fiddle around in *Photoshop* and get a similar effect.

Our tutorial uses clipping layers. If you've got *Photoshop*, you'll find it easier to use a layer mask instead, but the end result will be the same.

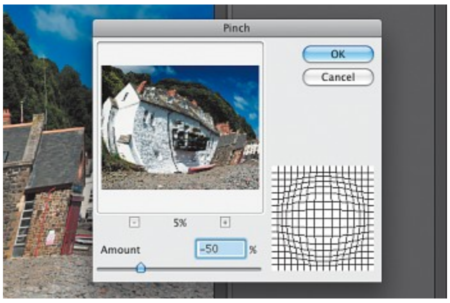
> *"Now that we no longer have those dodgy lenses, films and exposure systems, we want them back"*

Clipping layers work like layer masks, except layer masks use black-white pixels to control the opacity of the layer they're applied to (black 'shows', white 'hides'). Clipping layers work using transparency. An empty clipping layer is transparent and makes the clipped layer it's applied to transparent too. When you paint pixels on the clipping layer, those areas of the clipped layer become visible. It doesn't matter what colour the pixels are – changing the opacity, not its colour, is what changes the opacity of the clipped layer.

It sounds more complicated than it is, so we'll go through it step by step.

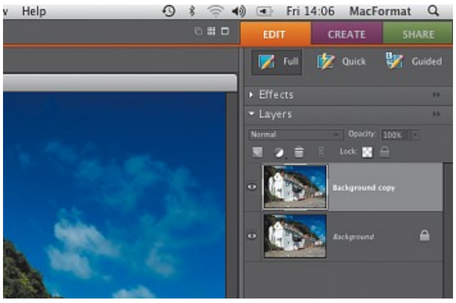
Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Add effects with Photoshop's clipping layers


Pinch
OK
Cancel
5%
Amount
Amount: -50 %

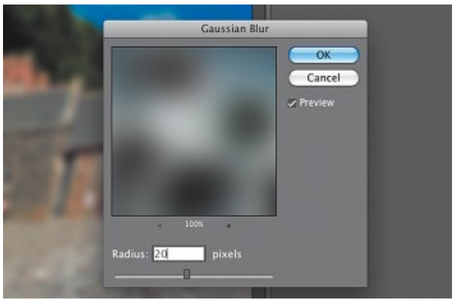
01 Create a fisheye effect

There are many ways to create a fake fisheye effect, including the **Distortion** slider in the **Lens Correction** filter, for example, or the **Spherize** filter. The best tool, though, is the **Pinch** filter. If you apply a negative value you 'punch' the centre of the picture outwards.


Help
Fri 14:06
MacFormat
EDIT
CREATE
SHARE
Full
Quick
Guided
Effects
Layers
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Background copy
Background

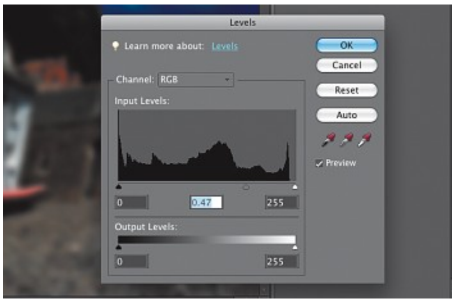
02 Duplicate the layer

We want to blend the edge blurring and darkening effect characteristic of the Holga/Lomo cameras in with the rest of the image. We'll apply these effects to a duplicate of the image layer – just drag the layer thumbnail on to the **New Layer** button on the **Layers** palette.


Gaussian Blur
OK
Cancel
Preview
100%
Radius: 20 pixels

03 Blur the layer

To create the edge blurring effect we need the **Gaussian Blur** filter. A value of **20 pixels** is a good starting point. Don't go mad; we can increase the blur later on if necessary, but it's impossible to reduce it – you'd have to start from scratch with a new layer.

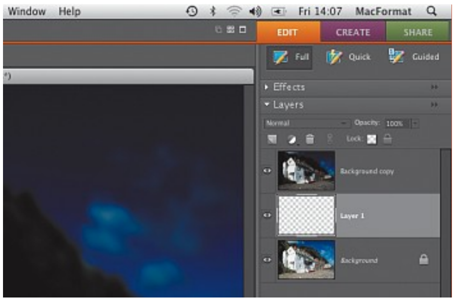

Levels
Learn more about: Levels
OK
Cancel
Reset
Auto
Preview
Input Levels:
Output Levels:
Channel: RGB

Input Levels: 0 0.47 255

Output Levels: 0 255

04 Darken the layer

Cheap lenses produce a corner shading/vignetting effect, and we can duplicate this by adjusting the levels. Drag the centre **gray point** slider to the right to create a darkening effect. You can get away with a crude adjustment here; there is scope for lightening/darkening it later.

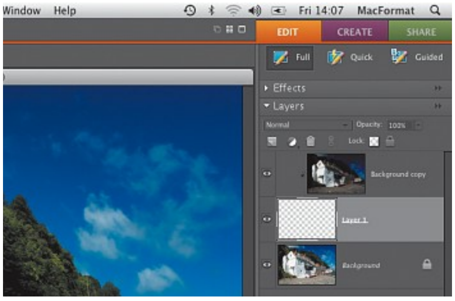

Window
Help
Fri 14:07
MacFormat
EDIT
CREATE
SHARE
Full
Quick
Guided
Effects
Layers
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Background copy
Layer 1
Background

05 Create a new layer

The easiest way to blend the top layer with the main image is to use a layer mask; *Elements* doesn't support these so we'll use a clipping layer instead. These also work in *Photoshop*. First, insert a new, blank layer between the two existing layers.

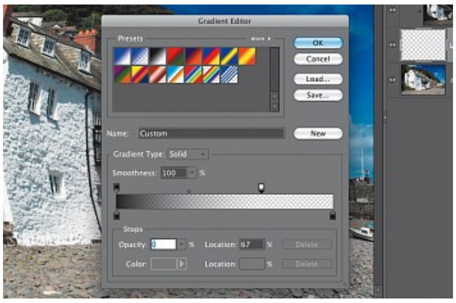
QUICK TIP

For shallow depth of field effects, create and blur a duplicate layer and add a clipping layer. Choose the **Reflected Gradient** button to create the illusion of defocused detail in front of and behind the subject.


Window
Help
Fri 14:07
MacFormat
EDIT
CREATE
SHARE
Full
Quick
Guided
Effects
Layers
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Background copy
Layer 1
Background

06 Create a clipping group

Now ⌥-click on the line where this and the layer above meet. The top layer should then be indented to indicate that it's being clipped by the new layer below. For the moment, the top layer is invisible as the clipping layer contains no pixels, and we sort this out in the next step.


Gradient Editor
Presets
OK
Cancel
Load...
Save...
New
Stops
Delete
Name: Custom

Gradient Type: Solid

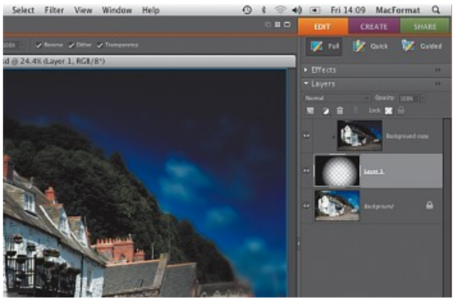
Smoothness: 100 %

Opacity: % Location: 67 %

Color: Location: %

07 Design a custom gradient

Now we can drag out a radial gradient to blend the top layer with the main image. Clipping layers use transparency to control the clipped layer, so we need a gradient which goes from a solid colour to 100% transparent. You can move the end stop to adjust the transition's position.


Select
Filter
View
Window
Help
Fri 14:09
MacFormat
EDIT
CREATE
SHARE
Full
Quick
Guided
Reverse
Dither
Transparency
Effects
Layers
Normal
Background copy
Layer 1
Background

08 Drag out the gradient

Choose a centre point for the gradient then click and drag outwards (with the clipping layer selected). This will blend in the blurred and darkened corners with the main image. If it's not right, hit ⌘+Z and try again (don't try to create a new gradient over the old one). ●

Use smart albums in iPhoto

iPhoto's smart albums live up to their name by making photo sorting easy

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Apple iPhoto 4 or later (iPhoto '09 is £69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

Smart albums are one of *iPhoto*'s most powerful tools. And although they may look and sound like regular albums, they are actually quite different.

With normal albums, you choose which photos you want to add. It's a manual process whereby you select the photo(s) and drag them on to the album icon. With smart albums, it's the software that decides which photos are included, and it does this based on their properties. These properties can include their keywords, descriptions, the names of any albums they're currently stored in, their rating and even the shooting information embedded by your digital camera.

In fact it's the same principle as using a search function in a database program. You choose the criteria you want to search for and the software returns a list of matching items. But ordinary searches are temporary – once you've found what you're looking for, the search fields are cleared. What smart albums do is save your search criteria permanently within the album settings. It's rather like being able to save any number of specific searches indefinitely.

What's more, smart albums look and behave like any other container in *iPhoto* – you just select the icon to see the contents. There's no reason why you shouldn't have a photo library consisting of both regular albums and smart albums mixed together, though for the sake of clarity you might want to split them up or use folders to keep them properly organised.

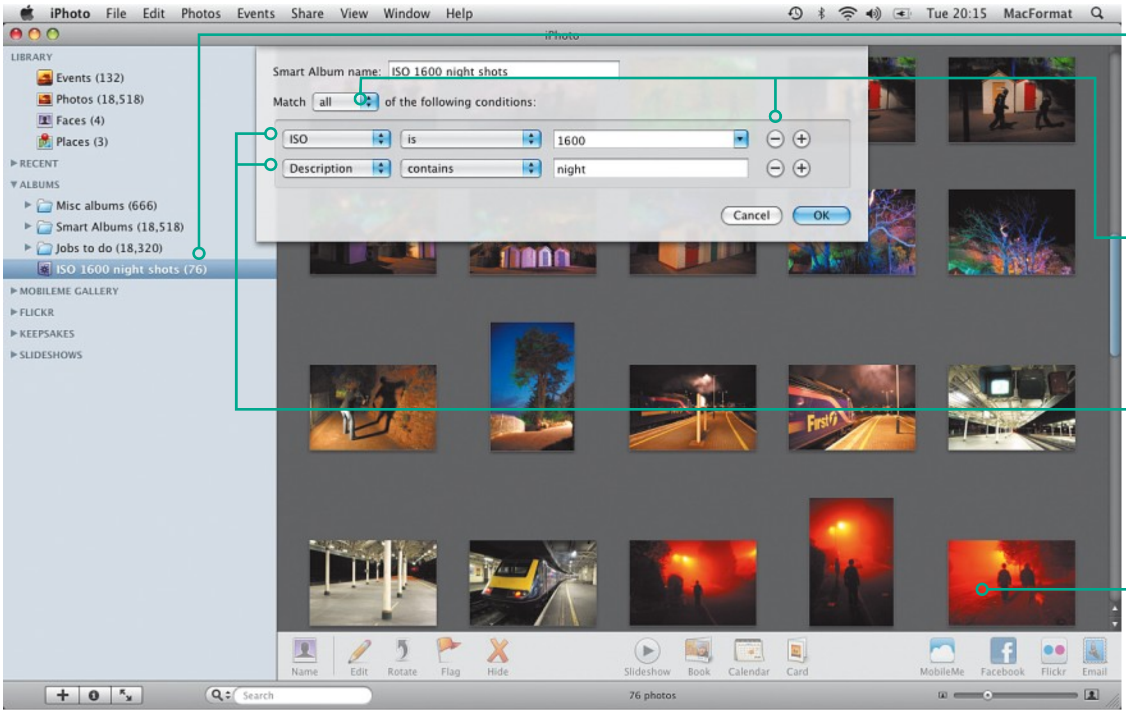
> *"Smart albums save your search criteria permanently within the actual album settings"*

Although smart albums are simple enough in principle, they do allow for quite a lot of subtlety and variety in the way you organise your photos. The key to this is the range of data you can use. This includes keywords, descriptions, ratings, and camera EXIF (shooting) data, and this can be combined in any way you like using multiple criteria.

The effectiveness of smart albums will depend to a large degree on how you've got your *iPhoto* library organised and the kind of data you like to add to your pictures, but hopefully our walkthrough will give you some ideas about how you might be able to use them.

Rod Lawton

>> QUICK LOOK / How to use smart albums


iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
Tue 20:15 MacFormat
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events (132)
Photos (18,518)
Faces (4)
Places (3)
RECENT
ALBUMS
Misc albums (666)
Smart Albums (18,518)
Jobs to do (18,320)
ISO 1600 night shots (76)
MOBILEME GALLERY
FLICKR
KEEPSAKES
SLIDESHOWS
Cancel
OK
Name
Edit
Rotate
Flag
Hide
Slideshow
Book
Calendar
Card
MobileMe
Facebook
Flickr
Email
Search
76 photos

Smart Album name: ISO 1600 night shots

Match all of the following conditions:

ISO is 1600

Description contains night

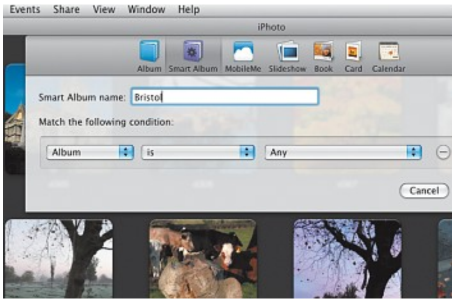
Smart album
They are identifiable by their colour and the 'gear' icon.

Multiple criteria
Add/remove criteria with the +/- buttons. Set how they interact with the drop-down.

Search criteria
Search by description, condition, and which properties to match.

Album contents
To remove content, you must change the image or album properties.

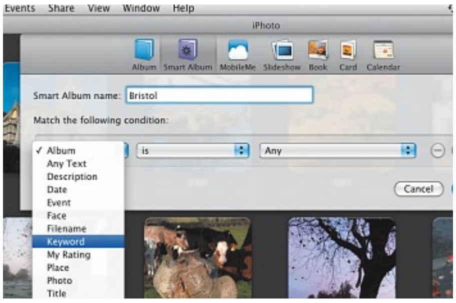
HOW TO / Set up iPhoto's smart albums


Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
Cancel

Smart Album name: Bristol
Match the following condition:
Album / is / Any

01 Create a smart album

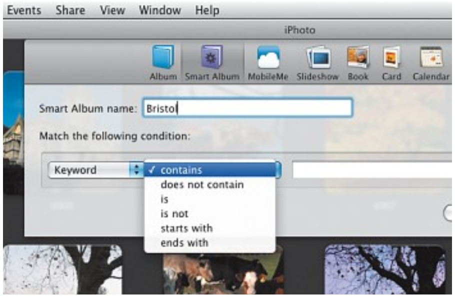
Create a smart album by pressing ⌘+⌥+N or go to File > New Album, where you'll get a row of different options. Smart albums are shown as a book icon with a gear on it. The first thing to do is give the new smart album a name – ours is called **Bristol**.


Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
✓ Album
Any Text
Description
Date
Event
Face
Filename
Keyword
My Rating
Place
Photo
Title
Cancel

Smart Album name: Bristol
Match the following condition:
Album / is / Any

02 Choose a property

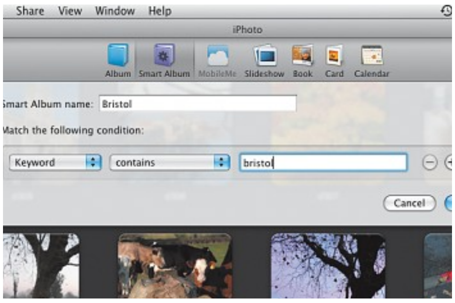
Smart albums are based on criteria; by default they have just one. Each criterion has three pop-up menus; the first, on the left, is used to choose the property you're looking for. Here, we want to look for photos with a specific keyword, though there are many other choices.


Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
✓ contains
does not contain
is
is not
starts with
ends with

Smart Album name: Bristol
Match the following condition:
Keyword / contains

03 Choose the condition

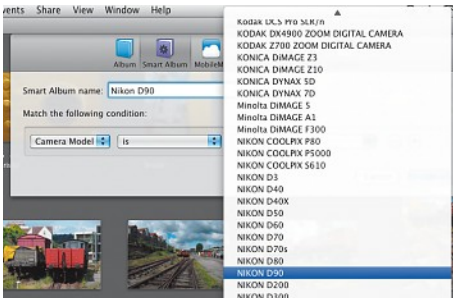
The next menu is used to choose the condition; this varies according to the property you're using. With keywords, you can look for photos which do/do not contain the keyword or, if you want to see the list of keywords currently used in your *iPhoto* library, choose **is** or **is not**.


Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
Cancel

Smart Album name: Bristol
Match the following condition:
Keyword / contains / bristol

04 Choose the value

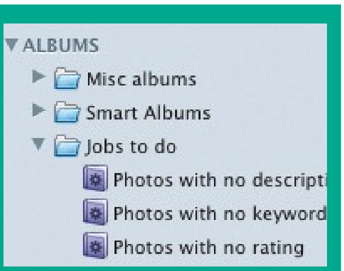
Type the value you want to look up. As we're looking for photos with keywords containing our term (not keywords which *are* the search term), we get a plain text box. You may get a drop-down menu, say, when searching for specific camera settings.


Events Share View Window Help
Album Smart Album MobileMe
KODAK DX4900 ZOOM DIGITAL CAMERA
KODAK Z700 ZOOM DIGITAL CAMERA
KONICA DiMAGE Z3
KONICA DiMAGE Z10
KONICA DYNAX 5D
KONICA DYNAX 7D
Minolta DiMAGE 5
Minolta DiMAGE A1
Minolta DiMAGE F300
NIKON COOLPIX P80
NIKON COOLPIX P5000
NIKON COOLPIX S610
NIKON D3
NIKON D40
NIKON D40X
NIKON D50
NIKON D60
NIKON D70
NIKON D70s
NIKON D80
NIKON D90
NIKON D200

Smart Album name: Nikon D90
Match the following condition:
Camera Model / is

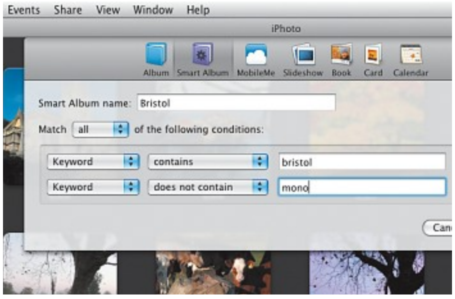
05 Using EXIF data

You'll see in Step 2 that the drop-down list of available photo properties includes common photo settings. What we can do here is create smart albums for each of the cameras we've used. You can do the same with ISO, shutter speed and lens used.


ALBUMS
Misc albums
Smart Albums
Jobs to do
Photos with no descripti
Photos with no keyword
Photos with no rating

QUICK TIP

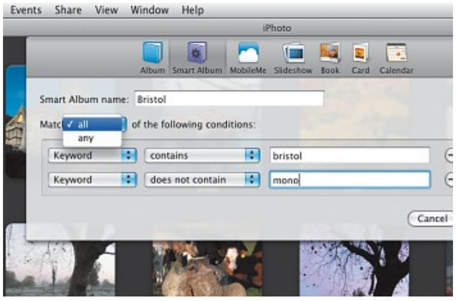
If albums and smart albums have made *iPhoto* untidy, organise them into folders. Smart albums work well if you add info to photos. To see the ones you've missed, create smart albums to display those without keywords, descriptions or ratings.


Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
Can

Smart Album name: Bristol
Match all of the following conditions:
Keyword / contains / bristol
Keyword / does not contain / mono

06 Adding criteria

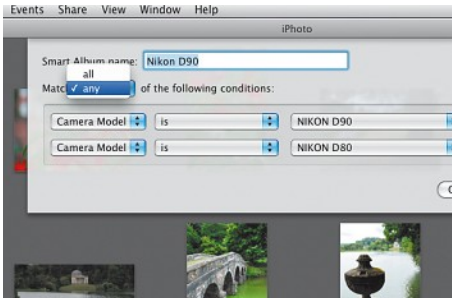
Smart albums can be made more specific by adding more criteria. Let's say we want to exclude black and white shots from our **Bristol** album. Add a second criterion which stipulates that **Keyword does not contain mono** (a keyword we used to tag black and white shots).


Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Album Smart Album MobileMe Slideshow Book Card Calendar
✓ all
any
Cancel

Smart Album name: Bristol
Match all of the following conditions:
Keyword / contains / bristol
Keyword / does not contain / mono

07 Match all

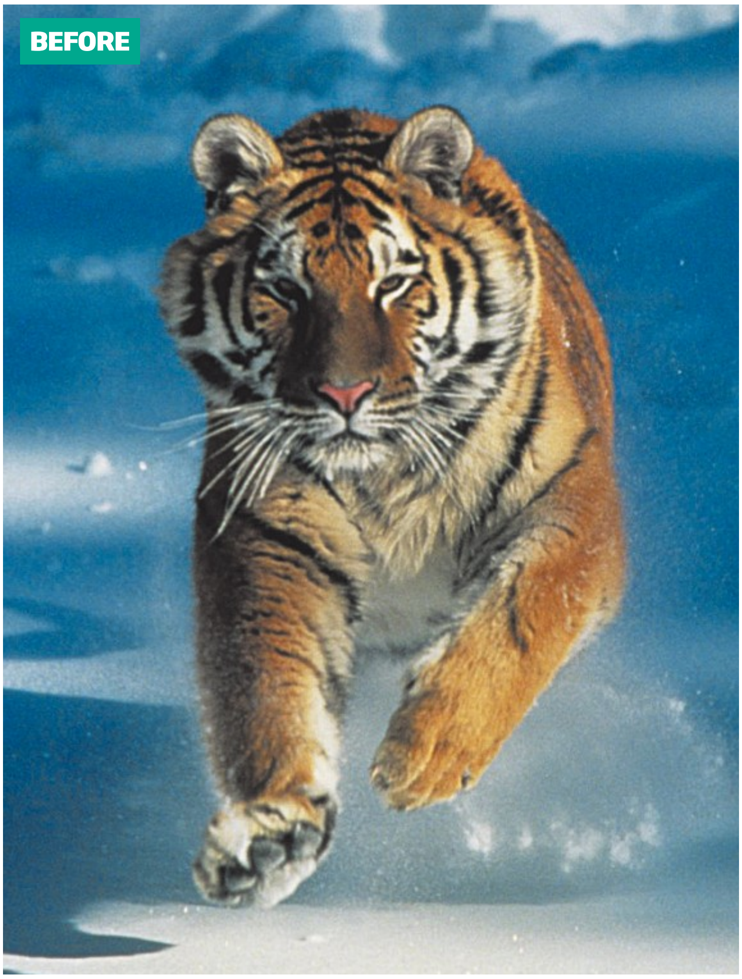
This is where you need to pay special attention to the **Match** drop-down. There are two options here: **all** and **any**. Here, we want the smart album to display photos which match both criteria (**bristol** and **not mono**), so for this we need to select **all** from the menu.

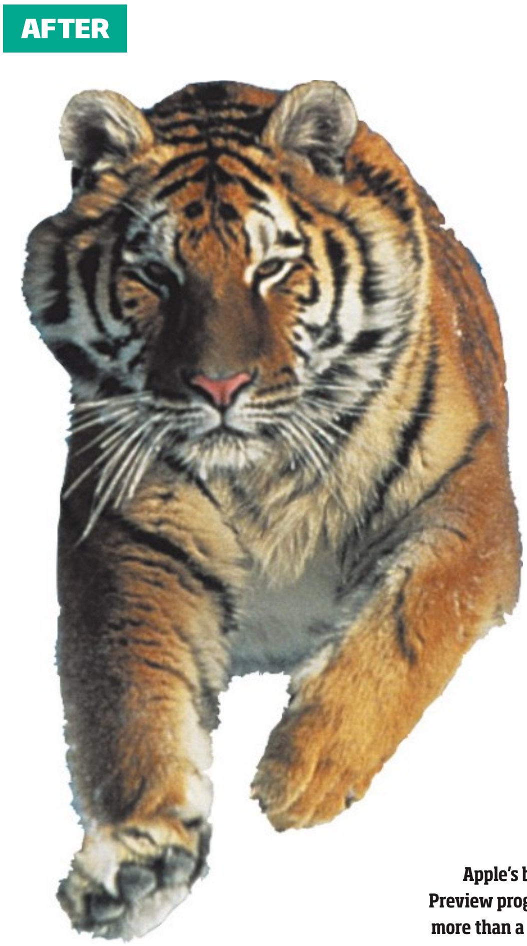

Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
all
✓ any

Smart Album name: Nikon D90
Match any of the following conditions:
Camera Model / is / NIKON D90
Camera Model / is / NIKON D80

08 Match any

What if we want a smart album which displays photos matching one criterion or the other? Say we want to display photos taken with either a Nikon D80 or a Nikon D90. To do this, select **any** from the menu. (You can't mix **any** and **all** within a smart album.) ●





Apple's built-in Preview program is more than a simple picture viewer.

Extract images using Preview

Cut out images from their backgrounds with OS X's built-in imaging program

» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and Apple Preview 4.2 or later

Most of us just use Apple's *Preview* program to quickly look at photos or PDF files, but it's worthy of more than just viewing files. Back in issue 205 we looked at the options within *Preview* for adding comments and annotations to documents, and with this tutorial we'll look at some of its more powerful graphics capabilities. One of its most powerful features is the ability to extract an object from within a photo. A typical example of this is when someone is standing in the foreground of a photo and you want to lift that person right out of the photo, so that the background is no longer visible.

Technically speaking, this is known as creating an alpha channel. Most images that you see on a computer or TV screen are made out of coloured dots (also known as picture elements or pixels) that combine the colours, red, green and blue. However, some types of computer graphics can also contain an alpha channel that can be used to make the underlying image – or selected parts of it – transparent.

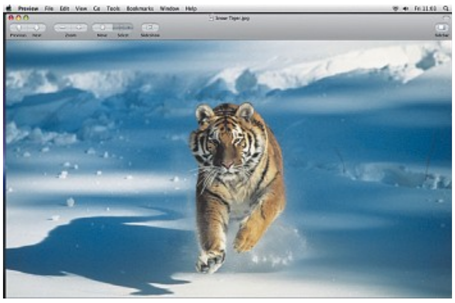
That's how Hollywood green screen effects work. The film-makers shoot actors in front of a green screen and then make the green background transparent so that they can insert a computer-generated background. This is easy when the background is one solid colour, but it's more difficult when the background image contains lots of different colours and levels of brightness and shadow. It's even harder when the foreground image includes a lot of fine detail, such as the fur and whiskers on our snow tiger photo that we're using here.

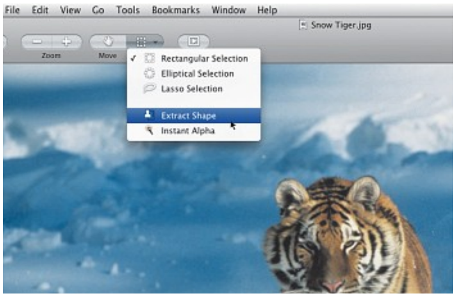
You'd normally have to buy an image-editing program such as *Photoshop Elements* to do this, but *Preview*'s Extract Image tool can tackle this task very quickly.

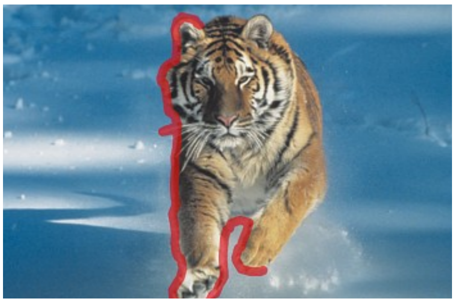
Cliff Joseph

> *"One of Preview's most powerful new features is the ability to 'extract' an object from within a photo"*

HOW TO / Cutting out images with Leopard's Preview application




File Edit View Go Tools Bookmarks Window Help
Snow Tiger.jpg
Zoom
Move
Rectangular Selection
Elliptical Selection
Lasso Selection
Extract Shape
Instant Alpha



01 Snow tiger

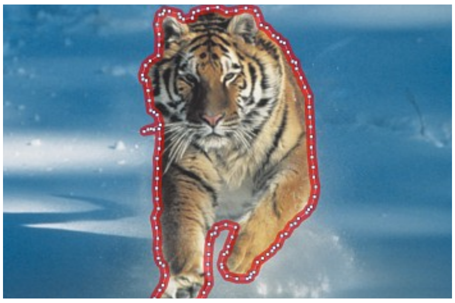
This is a terrific photo of a Siberian tiger (we couldn't find a snow leopard), but the background of the image is a bit tricky to deal with as there are several areas with different levels of light and shade. Fortunately, *Preview's* image selection tools are up to the task.

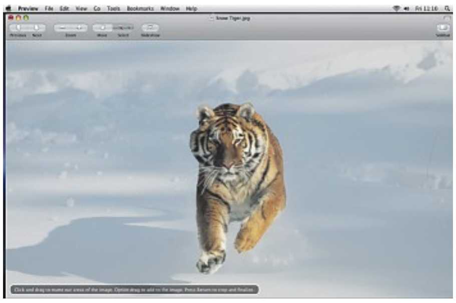
02 Extract Image

Click on the **Select** icon in the main toolbar to display the program's various selection tools. The **Lasso** tool might work for simpler images, but the outline of the tiger contains a lot of fine details. For images like this the **Extract Image** tool is the best option.

03 Fine lines

Your mouse cursor now turns into a red pen that allows you to trace around the outline of the tiger by hand. Take care to trace around details such as the tiger's whiskers – but don't worry too much if you miss them at this stage, as we can fine-tune the details later.





04 Handle with care

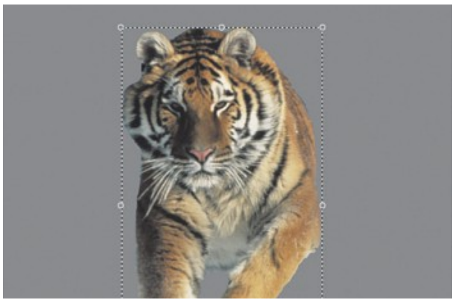
When you finish tracing the tiger's outline, *Preview* allows you to fine-tune your selection by displaying a series of small, white handles within the red outline that you've just drawn. You can click on these handles and move them to make your selection more precise.

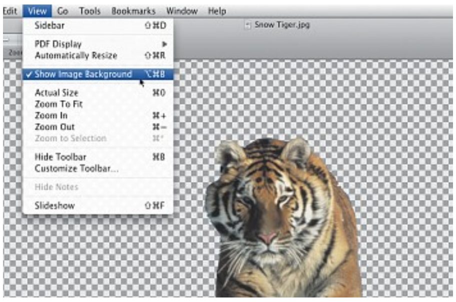
05 Preview in Preview

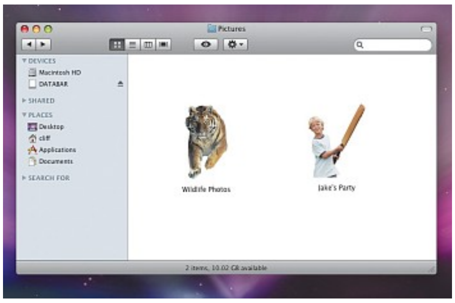
Press ↩ to see a preview of the final image. Notice that *Preview* displays prompts down in the left-hand corner of the screen to help guide you as you go along. If you're happy with the image that you've selected, press ↩ again to complete the selection.

QUICK TIP

The **Extract Image** tool is the best option for photos where the background is quite complicated. However, if the background in your photo is all one colour – such as a blue sky – then you can use the **Instant Alpha** tool instead. This allows you to quickly select large areas of uniform colour and remove them from your image.




Edit View Go Tools Bookmarks Window Help
Snow Tiger.jpg
Sidebar ⇧⌘D
PDF Display
Automatically Resize ⇧⌘R
✓ Show Image Background ⌥⌘B
Actual Size ⌘0
Zoom To Fit
Zoom In ⌘+
Zoom Out ⌘–
Zoom to Selection
Hide Toolbar ⌘B
Customize Toolbar...
Hide Notes
Slideshow ⇧⌘F


Pictures
DEVICES
Macintosh HD
DATABAR
SHARED
PLACES
Desktop
cliff
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Wildlife Photos
Jake's Party
2 items, 10.02 GB available

06 Down to size

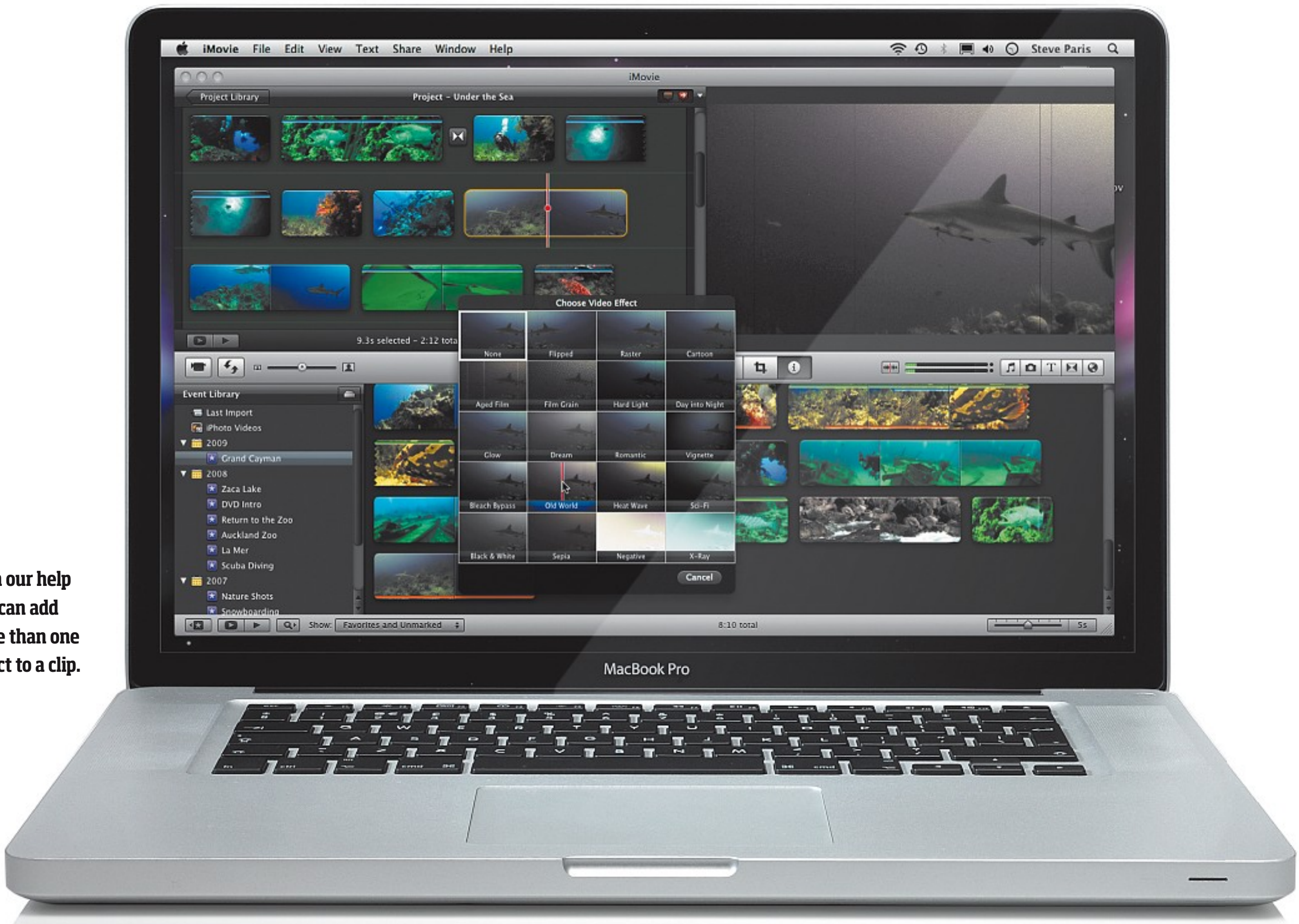
We've now extracted the image of the tiger from the background. However, the image is still the same size as the original, as the original background has simply been made transparent. So use the **Crop** tool (⌘+K) to cut the final image down to size.

07 Alpha Channel

One other useful option is the **Show Image Background** command, found in the **View** menu. This tells *Preview* to display a chequered background to indicate the area that is now transparent, providing a clearer contrast between the image and the background.

08 Tiger, tiger

You can now do whatever you want with the image. You could insert it into other photos to create a montage effect, but one of the things we like to do is use the image to create custom folder icons for our photo library, which look really neat on the Mac Desktop. ●


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
Project Library
Project – Under the Sea
Choose Video Effect
None
Flipped
Raster
Cartoon
Aged Film
Film Grain
Hard Light
Day into Night
Glow
Dream
Romantic
Vignette
Bleach Bypass
Old World
Heat Wave
Sci-Fi
Black & White
Sepia
Negative
X-Ray
Cancel
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2009
Grand Cayman
2008
Zaca Lake
DVD Intro
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
8:10 total
MacBook Pro

With our help you can add more than one effect to a clip.

Add multiple effects to clips

Effects are back, but how can you add more than one to a clip?

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED:
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Apple iMovie '09 version 8.0.3 or later (£69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**), video clips or photos stored on your Mac, some knowledge of iMovie and Finder

They're back! Special visual effects were sorely missed when Apple reinvented *iMovie* back in August 2007. You were forced to get creative and find alternative uses for the Export feature, only to find a few of the missing effects hidden inside *QuickTime*. Now, they have made a welcome return in *iMovie '09*.

However, there aren't as many as there were before, since the program isn't open to third-party developers, and you don't have any control over them, meaning that if you choose the Romantic effect, you have no sliders or tick boxes available for you to customise its look in any way. It's the default look or no effect at all. This may frustrate a few advanced users, but it simplifies the learning curve for the beginners, which is what the new *iMovie* excels at.

It's not all bad news, however: just like any other feature in *iMovie '09*, there is no need to render any effect before you can see the results: every alteration is done on the fly, granting you more time to experiment and less time waiting for your Mac to compute the changes.

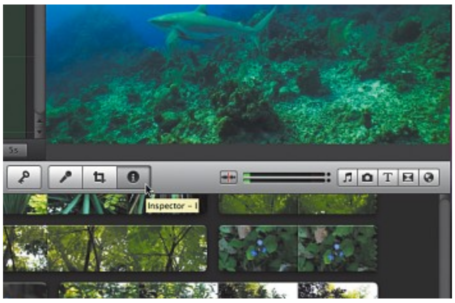
> "Just like any feature in iMovie, there's no need to render an effect before you can see the results"

One big drawback to the new effects is that you can't seem to add more than one of them to a particular clip. As you'll see in this tutorial, choosing a different effect replaces the one that was there before. This was not a limitation of *iMovie HD 6*, and it's a shame that Apple's reinterpretation curtails you in that way. There is, however, one way to circumvent this shortcoming, so we'll be looking at how to add more than one effect to a clip over the next two pages.

So launch your version of *iMovie '09*, select an existing project or create a new one from scratch, and let's see where all these new effects are hiding.

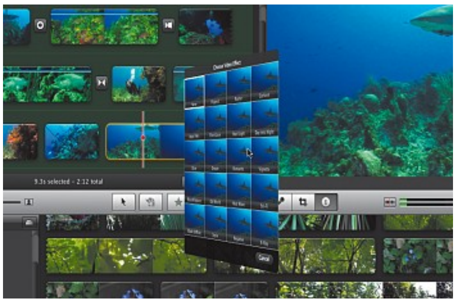
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Jazz up your clips with multiple effects


Inspector - I

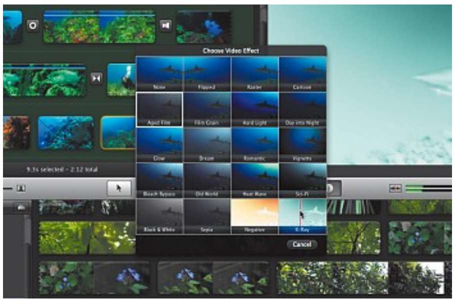
01 Get the Inspector

To add an effect you need to open the **Inspector** window. There are four ways to do this: you could select the clip of your choice then hit the I key, click on the **i** button in the toolbar, go to Window > Clip Adjustments, or simply double-click on the clip.


9.3s selected - 2:12 total

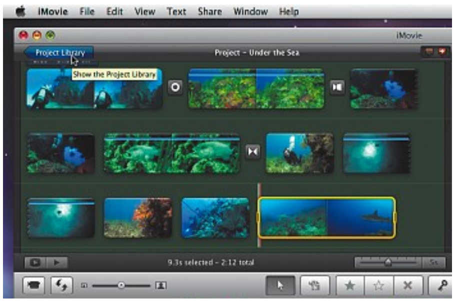
02 Choosing an effect

The **Video Effect** section is currently set to **None**. Click on that field to spin the **Inspector** window around, revealing all available effects (you have 19 to choose from). Select the one you'd like to use to return to the main **Inspector** window and set the effect.


Choose Video Effect
None
Flipped
Raster
Cartoon
Aged Film
Film Grain
Hard Light
Day into Night
Glow
Dream
Romantic
Vignette
Bleach Bypass
Old World
Heat Wave
Sci-Fi
Black & White
Sepia
Negative
X-Ray
Cancel
9.3s selected - 2:12 total

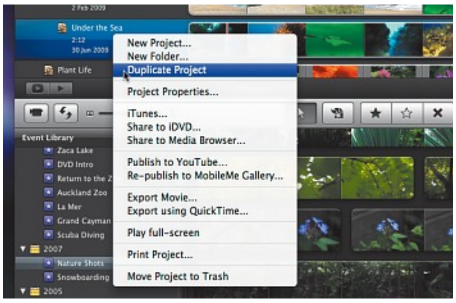
03 One at a time

There is a big limit to this method: you can only use one effect at a time. Select another and the previous effect is replaced by the new one. You can, however, choose to remove that effect by selecting **None** from the list, returning the clip to its original look.


iMovie
File
Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
Project Library
Show the Project Library
Project - Under the Sea
9.3s selected - 2:12 total

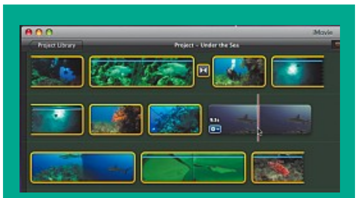
04 Into the Project Library

There is a way to add more than one effect, but you will lose the ability of undoing any effect you've added aside from the last one. To achieve this, alter a clip and click on the **Project Library** button (top-left of the interface) to see all your projects.


Under the Sea
Plant Life
Event Library
New Project...
New Folder...
Duplicate Project
Project Properties...
iTunes...
Share to iDVD...
Share to Media Browser...
Publish to YouTube...
Re-publish to MobileMe Gallery...
Export Movie...
Export using QuickTime...
Play full-screen
Print Project...
Move Project to Trash
Zaca Lake
DVD Intro
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Grand Cayman
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
2005

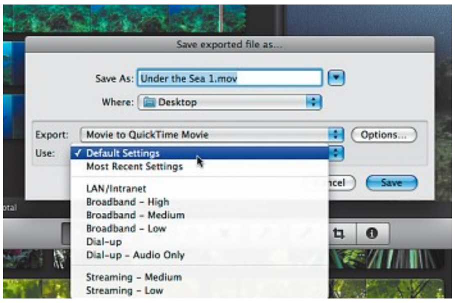
05 Duplicate and Export

ctrl-click on the project you're currently working on and select **Duplicate Project**. Double-click on the copy to reveal it. Delete all other clips in that project except for the one you'd like to add further effects to. When done, go to Share > Export Using QuickTime.


Project Library
Project - Under the Sea

QUICK TIP

If you've got a large project, it could be very tedious to have to delete each clip individually when dealing with Step 5. Thankfully, there's a much quicker option: use ⌘+A to select every clip in your project. Next, ⌘-click on the one you wish to keep to deselect it. Hitting the ← key leaves you with the clip you need to export.



Save exported file as...

Save As: Under the Sea 1.mov

Where: Desktop

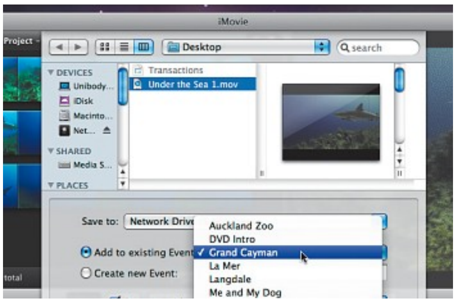
Export: Movie to QuickTime Movie

Use: Default Settings

Options...
Most Recent Settings
LAN/Intranet
Broadband - High
Broadband - Medium
Broadband - Low
Dial-up
Dial-up - Audio Only
Streaming - Medium
Streaming - Low
Save

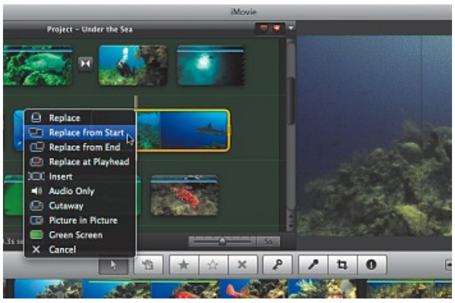
06 Export menus

The traditional **Export** window appears. Choose **Movie to QuickTime Movie** from the **Export** pop-up menu and **Default Settings** from the **Use** pop-up menu. There is no need to click on the **Options** button. Name the clip, select where to save it and click on **Save**.


iMovie
Desktop
search
DEVICES
SHARED
PLACES
Transactions
Under the Sea 1.mov
Save to:
Network Drive
Add to existing Event
Create new Event:
Auckland Zoo
DVD Intro
Grand Cayman
La Mer
Langdale
Me and My Dog

07 Importing options

To import the clip back into *iMovie*, go to File > Import > Movies. From the **Import** window you can choose to either **Add to existing Event** or **Create new Event**. Select **Move Files** if you don't want multiple copies of the same clip and click on **Import**.


iMovie
Project - Under the Sea
Replace
Replace from Start
Replace from End
Replace at Playhead
Insert
Audio Only
Cutaway
Picture in Picture
Green Screen
Cancel

08 Adding more effects

Locate the new clip in the **Events** section, click on it and press ⌘+A to select it all. Drag it over the existing one in the original project. Choose **Replace From Start** from the pop-up menu. You can now add an additional effect by following Steps 1 and 2 again. ●

GarageBand File Edit Track Control Share Window Help
GarageBand – Snow in Mexico
Tracks
06 Snow in Mexico
11.231
MacBook Pro
O2-UK
17:31
Christopher Phin
mobile
Decline
Answer

Use iTunes and GarageBand to create a unique ringtone for your iPhone.

Create iPhone ringtones

Add personalised ringtones to your iPhone from your iTunes collection

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Apple GarageBand 4.1.1 or later (v5 is £69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**), Apple iTunes 7.5 or later (free, **www.apple.com/itunes**), iPhone with software version 1.1.2 or later

An iPhone comes preloaded with a bunch of ringtones that are actually pretty nice, but they're not particularly personal. If you live in the US, you could buy a track on the iTunes Store, and then buy it again to use as a ringtone – you'll be asked to snip out a little sample and pay 99¢ for the privilege, and if you later decide that you'd actually prefer a different snippet, well, then get your wallet out again. And like we say, this only works in the US – if you're in the UK, you're out of luck. Officially.

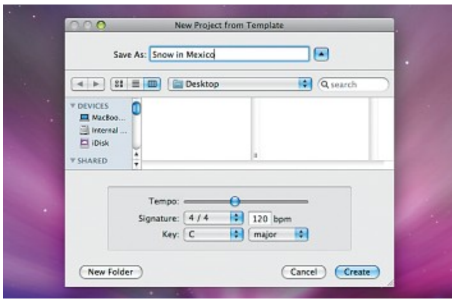
Unofficially, though, it's easy to do. The techniques we describe here don't work on tracks protected by Apple's FairPlay DRM – though if you 'upgrade' them to DRM-free iTunes Plus, they'll work fine. Note, however, that making a ringtone is probably a breach of copyright, so get the rights-holder's permission first to stay on the right side of the law; we'll use a track by the duo Balustrade, one half of which is *MacFormat*'s Art Editor. He says it's okay to use!

And in fact, although we'll use *GarageBand* in this tutorial, it's worth briefly sketching out another technique; it's not quite as friendly but it might be more efficient, and it'll work on PCs or those Macs that lack *GarageBand 4*. Select a track in *iTunes*, right-click and choose Get Info. Under the Options tag, change the Start and Stop times to create a clip less than 40 seconds long, then click OK. Right-click on the track and choose Convert to AAC – if yours says Convert to MP3, change your encoding preferences. Once the export has completed, drag the new file to your Desktop and trash the copy in *iTunes*. Change the extension of the file on your Desktop from .m4a to .m4r, then double-click it to send it back into *iTunes* as a ringtone. Sync, and you're done!

> *"Making a ringtone is probably a breach of copyright, so get the rights-holder's permission first"*

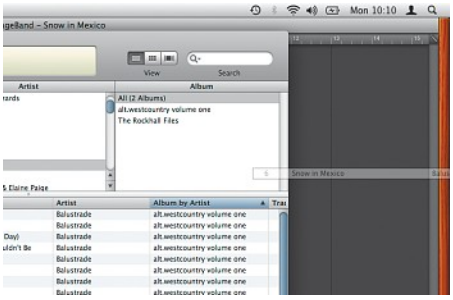
Now back to the friendly way...
Christopher Phin

HOW TO / Use your iTunes music to create iPhone ringtones


New Project from Template
Save As: Snow in Mexico
Desktop
DEVICES
SHARED
Tempo:
Signature: 4 / 4
120 bpm
Key: C
major
New Folder
Cancel
Create

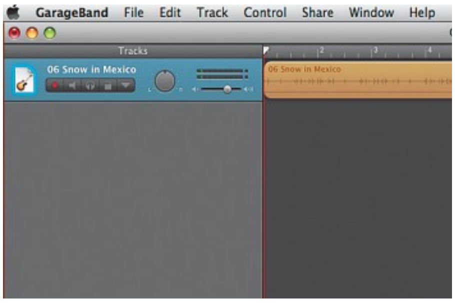
01 Create a new project

Launch *GarageBand* and begin a new project. There's no way to create one that's totally blank, so you can just accept the basic **Piano** preset in *GarageBand 5*, or press ⌘+N to bring up the new document dialog box. You can leave the tempo and key information alone.


Mon 10:10
geBand – Snow in Mexico
View
Search
Artist
Album
All (2 Albums)
alt.westcountry volume one
The Rockhall Files
Artist
Album by Artist
Balustrade

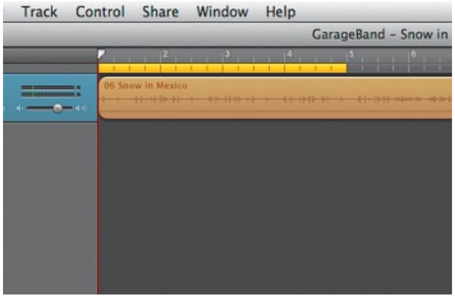
02 Import the track

Drag in the track that you want to convert into a ringtone. *GarageBand* doesn't mind if the track is in *Finder* or *iTunes*. (If your screen is cluttered, you can use *Exposé* (or the ⌘+⇥ app switcher) to grab the track then drop it onto the **GarageBand** window.)


GarageBand
File
Edit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
Tracks
06 Snow in Mexico

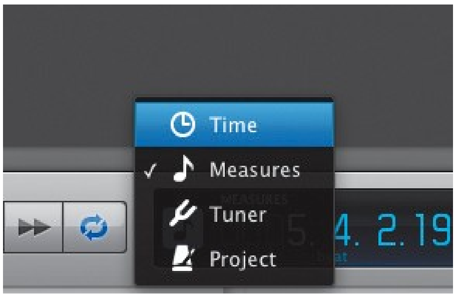
03 Position the track

Though not strictly necessary, you can drag the track to the left so that it snaps to the start of *GarageBand's* composition window. You can also – though it won't make a difference – trash the **Piano** track that *GarageBand* insists on adding; ⌘+⌫ will do it.


Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
GarageBand – Snow in
06 Snow in Mexico

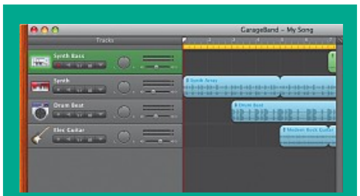
04 Turn on Cycle

To the right of the group of transport buttons at the bottom of the window is a button with two circling arrows on it. Click it to turn on the **Cycle** function and you'll see a thick yellow line appear at the top of the timeline, indicating what portion will be repeated.


Time
Measures
Tuner
Project
4. 2.19

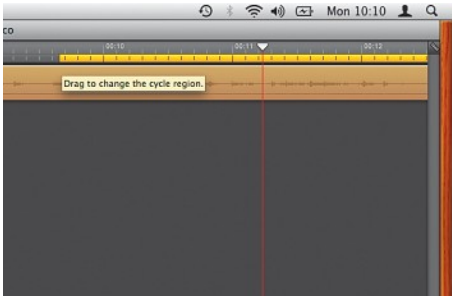
05 Switch the display mode

By default, *GarageBand* tries to use a 4/4 time signature, and snaps your adjustments to these relatively large increments. Change the display mode to show the time elapsed by clicking the note in the blue display at the bottom, and switching from **Measures** to **Time**.



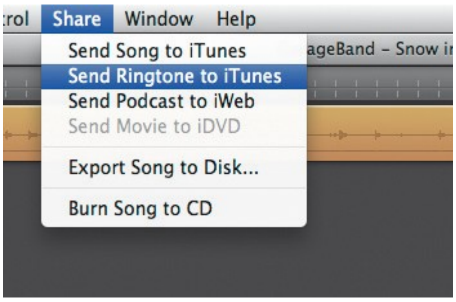
QUICK TIP

Of course, you don't have to clip out a section of an existing track to use as a ringtone; you could use *GarageBand* to create entirely original compositions. If the muse isn't quite with you – or you don't have a MIDI keyboard to hand – you could experiment with the loops and riffs that come preloaded, or buy add-on Jam Packs.


Mon 10:10
Drag to change the cycle region.

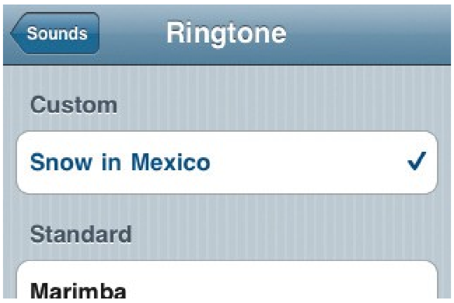
06 Trim the clip

Now you can drag the yellow Cycle area to the portion of the track you want to use as your ringtone. Hover over the beginning or end or the yellow bar to drag it out or make the duration shorter (you may need to zoom in; 40 seconds max) and play the loop to check it.


rol
Share
Window
Help
ageBand – Snow in
Send Song to iTunes
Send Ringtone to iTunes
Send Podcast to iWeb
Send Movie to iDVD
Export Song to Disk...
Burn Song to CD

07 Send ringtone to iTunes

Once you're happy with how the ringtone is sounding, go to the **Share** menu and choose **Send Ringtone to iTunes**. *GarageBand* will convert it to the right format with the correct file extension and add it to the **Ringtones** section of *iTunes*.


Sounds
Ringtone
Custom
Snow in Mexico ✓
Standard
Marimba

08 Use the ringtone

Make sure you have your iPhone set to sync ringtones (the **Ringtones** tab of the iPhone summary screen in *iTunes*) and sync. Go into your iPhone's *Settings* app, choose **Sounds**, and set your ringtone. You can also link it to particular people from the *Contacts* app. ●

Works with iPhone

Juice Pack
www.juicepack.co.uk

*iPhone not included

juice pack *air*™

Rechargeable battery case for iPhone 3G

mophie introduces the world's *thinnest* external battery for iPhone 3G.
The juice pack *air* is a rechargeable external battery concealed inside of a protective form-fitting case for the iPhone 3G. It offers you the full protection of a hard-shell case while providing virtually twice the battery life of the iPhone alone; all in an ultra-thin, light-weight, low-profile design.

more time to rock, talk, surf and send!

Additional hours:

Talk Time
Up to 4.5 hours on 3G
Up to 9 hours on 2G

Internet Use
Up to 4.5 hours on 3G
Up to 5.4 hours onWi-Fi

Standby Time
Up to 20 hours

Audio Playback
Up to 6 hours

Video Playback
Up to 270 hours

www.mophie.com

Self improve with a Mac

Here are the top 10 ways your Mac can help you become a smarter individual

>> ON THE DISC
Find some apps here on the disc.

Never before have there been so many great personal development tools at your disposal. And it's all waiting right there at your fingertips, because you'll find that your Mac is the only gateway you need to access this world of self-improvement. Whether you need to discover new ways of making yourself more effective at work or you simply need some help organising your life at home, your Mac can help you do it. So, without further delay, here are 10 great ways your Mac can help out with your personal development.

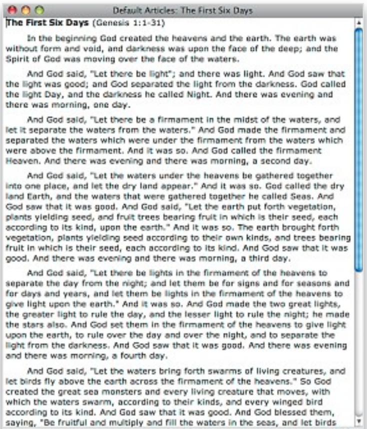
> *"Discover new ways of making yourself more effective at work or organise your life at home, with your Mac"*

01 Learn how to master speed-reading

Speed-reading is also a good skill to have if you're going to be digesting knowledge. The average reader reads at about 200 words per minute. Speed-reading enables you to take in more than 1000 words per minute, but requires serious concentration, which takes practice.

There are various speed-reading applications for the Mac. Most operate like the freeware *Speed Reading III* (http://customsolutionsofmaryland.50megs.com/), which trains you to look at two midpoints on each line and move forward without going back and re-reading. You can adjust the speed of the moving window from approximately 200 words per minute to an impressive 1,500 words per minute as you improve.

At $15 (£7) the app *iSpeedRead* (http://ispeedread.iverbum.com/) is more sophisticated and includes comprehension tests to see if you've retained the information you're supposed to have absorbed.



Default Articles: The First Six Days

The First Six Days (Genesis 1:1-31)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds

Speed: 300 words per minute
Page Delay (s): 0.5
Multi-Word
4 words
Black on White
Quiz
Visibility: 0.3

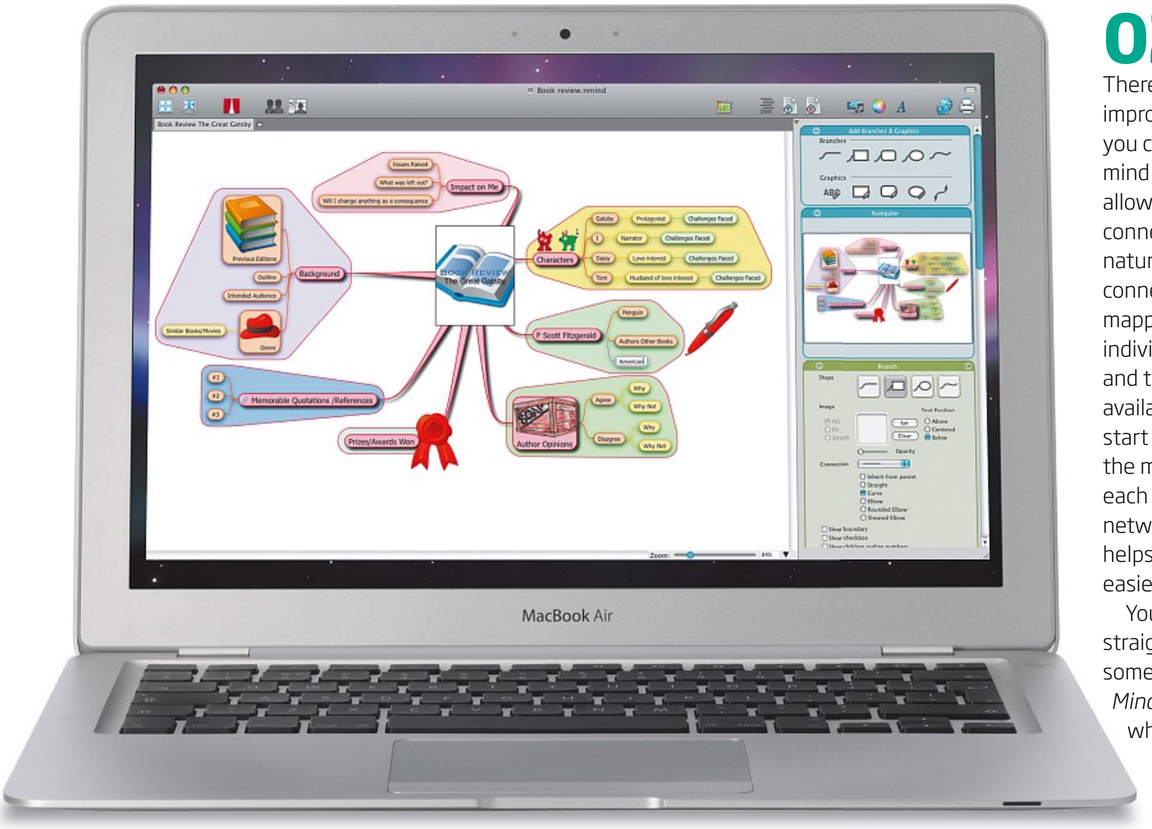
Start ⌘
Pause
100
300
500
700
900
0
0

Why not learn to speed read to save time, with the free iSpeedRead?

02 Get into mind mapping

There are many techniques for improving your creativity and helping you come up with great ideas, but mind mapping is one of the best: it allows your brain to make connections between ideas in a natural way, as well as discover new connections between concepts. Mind mapping is popular with creative individuals who are drawn to the Mac and there are many great programs available for OS X. To make a map, start with a central idea or word in the middle and create 'branches' for each related idea. By creating this network of concepts, you may find it helps clarify your thoughts, making it easier to remember ideas.

You can get into mind mapping straight away by starting out with something like *ConceptDraw Mindmap* or *OmniGraffle*, trials of which are on this month's disc. >>

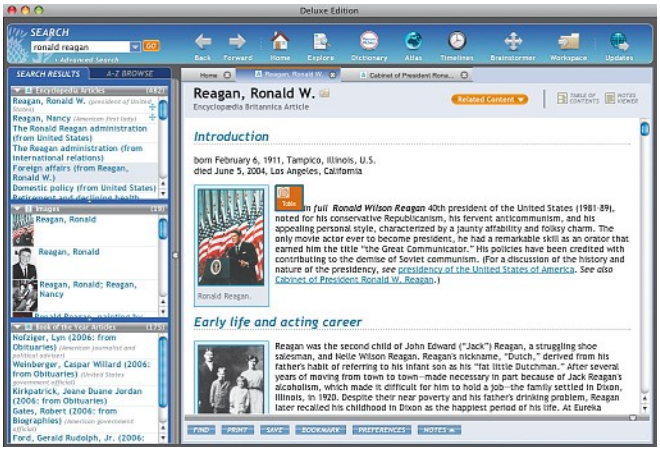


Book review.mmind
Book Review The Great Gatsby
Book Review
The Great Gatsby
Impact on Me
Issues Raised
What was left out?
Will I change anything as a consequence
Background
Previous Editions
Outline
Intended Audience
Similar Books/Movies
Genre
Characters
Gatsby
Protagonist
Challenges Faced
I
Narrator
Challenges Faced
Daisy
Love interest
Challenges Faced
Tom
Husband of love interest
Challenges Faced
F Scott Fitzgerald
Penguin
Authors Other Books
American
Memorable Quotations /References
#1
#2
#3
Prizes/Awards Won
Author Opinions
Agree
Why
Why Not
Disagree
Why
Why Not
Add Branches & Graphics
Branches
Graphics
Navigator
Branch
Zoom:
MacBook Air

Mind mapping enables you to unleash your creativity.

QUICK TIP

You don't need to break the bank to exercise your grey matter on your Mac. It's easy to miss, because it's hidden away, but OS X already comes with a great built-in brain teaser app: *Chess*. The game resides in your **Applications** folder and is an excellent 3D version of the classic game. Test your skills by playing human against human or take on your Mac.


Deluxe Edition
SEARCH
ronald reagan
GO
Advanced Search
SEARCH RESULTS
A-Z BROWSE
Back
Forward
Home
Explore
Dictionary
Atlas
Timelines
Brainstormer
Workspace
Updates
Home
Reagan, Ronald W.
Cabinet of President Rona...
Related Content
TABLE OF CONTENTS
NOTES VIEWER
Table
FIND
PRINT
SAVE
BOOKMARK
PREFERENCES
NOTES

Reagan, Ronald W.
Encyclopædia Britannica Article

Introduction

born February 6, 1911, Tampico, Illinois, U.S.
died June 5, 2004, Los Angeles, California

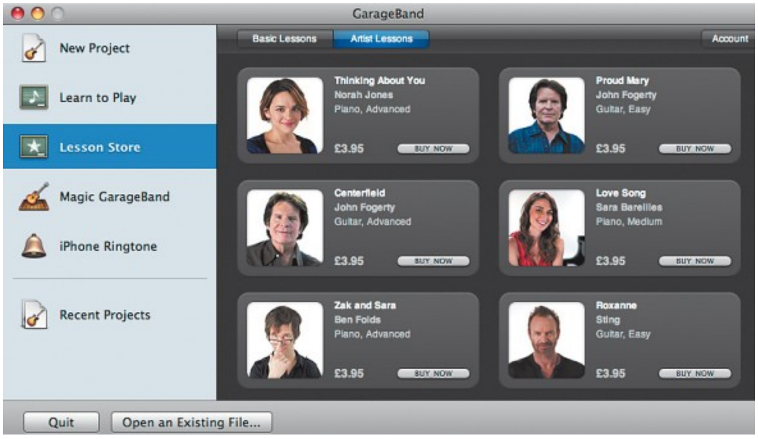
Ronald Reagan.

in full ***Ronald Wilson Reagan*** 40th president of the United States (1981-89), noted for his conservative Republicanism, his fervent anticommunism, and his appealing personal style, characterized by a jaunty affability and folksy charm. The only movie actor ever to become president, he had a remarkable skill as an orator that earned him the title "the Great Communicator." His policies have been credited with contributing to the demise of Soviet communism. (For a discussion of the history and nature of the presidency, *see* presidency of the United States of America. *See also* Cabinet of President Ronald W. Reagan.)

Early life and acting career

Reagan was the second child of John Edward ("Jack") Reagan, a struggling shoe salesman, and Nelle Wilson Reagan. Reagan's nickname, "Dutch," derived from his father's habit of referring to his infant son as his "fat little Dutchman." After several years of moving from town to town—made necessary in part because of Jack Reagan's alcoholism, which made it difficult for him to hold a job—the family settled in Dixon, Illinois, in 1920. Despite their near poverty and his father's drinking problem, Reagan later recalled his childhood in Dixon as the happiest period of his life. At Eureka

Encyclopaedia Britannica has articles on just about everything, and includes multimedia content.


GarageBand
New Project
Learn to Play
Lesson Store
Magic GarageBand
iPhone Ringtone
Recent Projects
Basic Lessons
Artist Lessons
Account
Thinking About You
Norah Jones
Piano, Advanced
£3.95
BUY NOW
Proud Mary
John Fogerty
Guitar, Easy
£3.95
BUY NOW
Centerfield
John Fogerty
Guitar, Advanced
£3.95
BUY NOW
Love Song
Sara Bareilles
Piano, Medium
£3.95
BUY NOW
Zak and Sara
Ben Folds
Piano, Advanced
£3.95
BUY NOW
Roxanne
Sting
Guitar, Easy
£3.95
BUY NOW
Quit
Open an Existing File...

Let Sting and Norah Jones show you how to play their songs in GarageBand.

03 Dip into an encyclopaedia

Armed with your new learning skills, you can now go out and saturate the empty sponge of your brain with knowledge. The best place to start is the good old encyclopaedia. All you need to access Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org) is a web browser, although the *Dictionary* application in your Applications folder (Leopard only) provides a nicer-looking way to view it. However, there are good things and bad things about Wikipedia: while Wikipedia article accuracy is generally very high, since anyone can edit a Wikipedia entry you can occasionally find entries on important subjects that contain inaccuracies or pages that have been deliberately messed around with.

If you're after absolute reliability and depth of knowledge, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (www.britannica.com) should be your first port of call. You can either use this through your web browser (for a fee) or buy one of the many DVD editions available from the site. Unlike the old print version, which would set you back a few hundred quid as well as taking up half the space in your house, the DVD version is only £40 and has multimedia content as well.

04 Learn an instrument

Learning an instrument has its own challenges, but your Mac can help here too. *GarageBand '09* now comes with Basic Lessons, which teach you the basics of finger placement and chords for piano and guitar. For those who already know the basics, *GarageBand*'s add-on Artist Lessons (£3.95 each) gets the likes of Sting, Norah Jones and Sarah McLachlan to take you through their songs and shows you how to play them. A good alternative that goes on to take things even further is *iPlayMusic* (www.iplaymusic.com). This provides many resources, including a Mac program with videos and 26 songs to play along with. *Piano and Keyboard Method* (www.emediamusic.com), has 300 step-by-step lessons for learning the piano, while *Practica Musica* (www.ars-nova.com) teaches the fundamentals of music theory and ear training (in other words, the ability to identify an interval by ear).

05 Increase your mental agility

Simple sharpness of thinking is another great asset to have. If you just want to get your mind working at a faster pace, a few brain exercises will go a long way. Crosswords are a good way of getting your mental skills warmed up. There are a significant number of crossword puzzle programs for the Mac, as well as a number of online puzzles at newspapers' sites. *Infinite Crosswords* (www.macgamestore.com) gives you access to the Sunday puzzles from *The LA Times* and *The Washington Post*, while *The New York Times* has a subscription service and a dedicated cross-platform crossword puzzle program built using Adobe *Air* (www.nytimes.com). There are also programs for mobile phones, including the iPhone, as well (www.magmic.com).

If you prefer numbers then Sudoku is a good alternative. There are many Sudoku programs out there such as: *Web Sudoku Deluxe* (www.websudoku.com), *SudokuAdept* (www.hexcat.com), which comes with millions of Sudoku, and *Xudoku* (http://stephen.dsm.geek.nz/), which enables you to create as well as solve the puzzles.

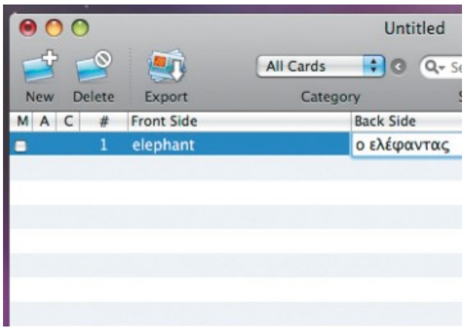
06 A matter of food and drink

Your Mac should always be on standby to help with dinner parties. There are applications available for storing recipes, such as *The Recipe Box* (**www.sonoragraphics.com**) and *Kelli's Recipe Box* (**www.davedowling.com**). Most of these also have a 'recipe scaler' to help adjust ingredients in a recipe if you intend to cook for more or fewer guests.

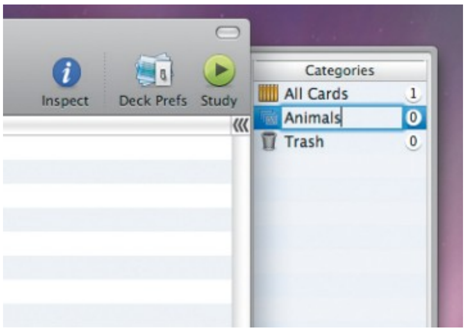
Programs such as *myRecipes* (**http://myownapp.com**) also enable you to convert and store recipes from the net. *Connoisseur* (**www.connoisseurx.com**) takes things a little further with an iPod export option and a shopping-list creator. *MacGourmet Deluxe* (**www.marinersoftware.com**) has a party planner that syncs with *iCal*, includes a wine database and analyses the nutritional contents of meals.

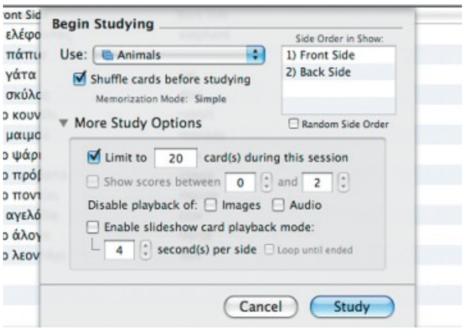
However, the cleverest of them all is *SousChef* (**http://acaciatreesoftware.com/**). It includes a database of all of its users' recipes, has an ingredient substitution tool and features a "10-foot mode" designed to be readable from across a room. Lastly, *Party Pro* for the iPod (**www.helmesinnovations.com**) has more than 20,000 recipes, instructions on the basic of bartending and how to stock a bar. There is also a bar locator.

HOW TO / Create flashcards with iFlash


Untitled
New
Delete
Export
All Cards
Category
M A C # Front Side Back Side

1 elephant ο ελέφαντας


Inspect
Deck Prefs
Study
Categories
All Cards 1
Animals 0
Trash 0


Begin Studying
Side Order in Show:
Memorization Mode: Simple
More Study Options
Cancel
Study

Use: Animals

☑ Shuffle cards before studying

1) Front Side
2) Back Side

☐ Random Side Order

☑ Limit to 20 card(s) during this session

☐ Show scores between 0 and 2

Disable playback of: ☐ Images ☐ Audio

☐ Enable slideshow card playback mode:

4 second(s) per side ☐ Loop until ended

01 House of cards

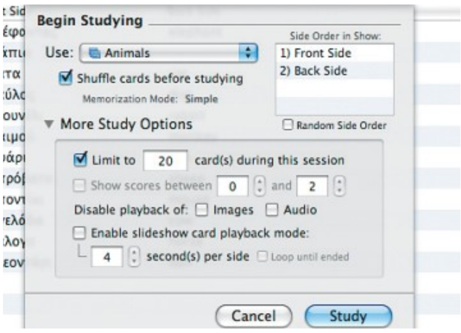
iFlash works using cards. When you open it, you'll get a list of recent decks to edit or you can create a new one. Once you've got a set, you can add more cards by clicking on **New** in the toolbar. Add the word to the front side of the card and put its definition on the other side.

02 Categorise your cards

Put your cards into categories, so you can concentrate on memorising particular groups. Create a new category by clicking + in the side drawer. When you have a category selected, all new cards will be added to it, but you can also drag and drop cards into other categories.

03 Sounds and images

Add images and sound to the cards. Click the **Inspector** icon in the toolbar, and make sure **Sides** is selected in the pull-down menu. Click on the sound icon to record, add a sound file you already have or delete an existing sound. The image icon lets you do the same with pictures.


Begin Studying
Side Order in Show:
Memorization Mode: Simple
More Study Options
Cancel
Study

Use: Animals

☑ Shuffle cards before studying

1) Front Side
2) Back Side

☐ Random Side Order

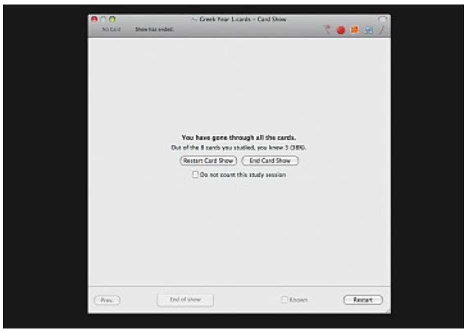
☑ Limit to 20 card(s) during this session

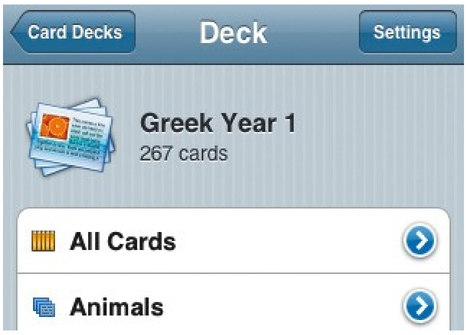
☐ Show scores between 0 and 2

Disable playback of: ☐ Images ☐ Audio

☐ Enable slideshow card playback mode:

4 second(s) per side ☐ Loop until ended




Card Decks
Deck
Settings
Greek Year 1
267 cards
All Cards
Animals

04 Picking a quiz

To be tested on the cards, click **Study** and choose if you want to be tested on a single category, all or just a selection. *iFlash* has three different types of quiz; choose one from the **Deck Preferences** icon in the toolbar.

05 Quiz night

When you run the quiz, you'll be shown a card. Click **Back/Front Side** to be shown the other side. If you know it, click **Known**. Using the toolbar you can flag up cards as tricky, stop the show, see pictures, go full screen or edit them.

06 Export your flashcards

Take your cards with you. Click **Export** in the toolbar and choose the format: **iPod touch/iPhone**, **older iPod** or **text file**. With older iPods, *iFlash* will store the cards as notes. With an iPhone, there's an app that syncs with your deck.

07 Brain training

Both crosswords and Sudoku are, in their own way, brain trainers. Brain training is now a widely understood concept, thanks to Nintendo's Wii and Dr Ryuta Kawashima's Nintendo DS *Brain Training Academy* games, which have become the most widely used programs. Brain training involves practising certain aspects of cognition, such as memorisation, spatial analysis, identification of objects, arithmetic and verbal reasoning. The theory is that by continuously practising, you will be able to improve and retain your skills in these areas.

Brain Exercise
with Dr. Kawashima
MENU
BRAIN TRAINING
BRAIN AGE
QUICK PLAY
Check your current Brain Age.

Unfortunately, it has to be said that the Mac doesn't have a great selection of brain training programs yet. Although, it does have the perfectly adequate open source *iMemory* (http://mac.softpedia.com/) as well as *Brain Workshop* (http://brainworkshop.sourceforge.net/), which improves working memory and fluid intelligence.

By contrast, the iPhone and iPod touch provide an ever-increasing number of fantastic training applications, including *MindDojo*, *Brain Tuner* and *Brain Exercise* from the venerable Dr Kawashima himself. All those iPhone apps can be found on Apple's App Store. »

QUICK TIP

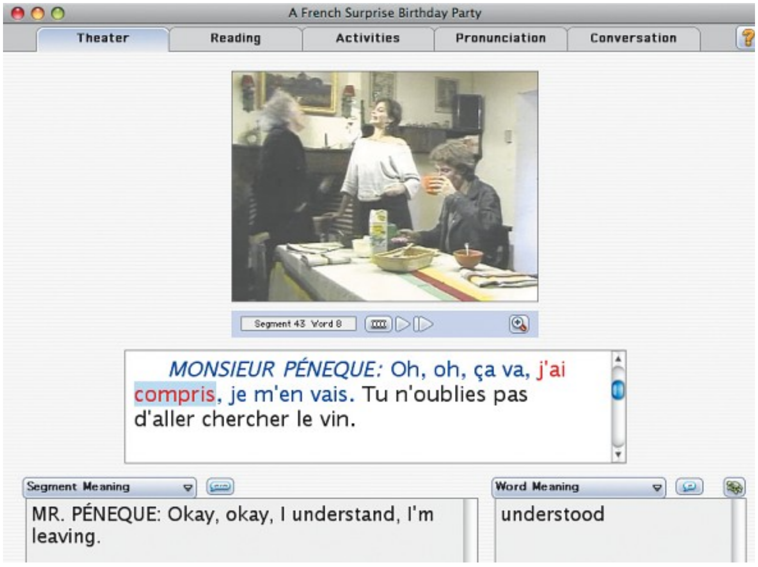
Learning the pictograms of Chinese and Japanese is tough. But *iKanji* (**www.thinkmac.co.uk**) makes it easier. It has 2230 Japanese kanji, 214 radicals and 16,000 example words, as well as how to draw them. *Wenlin* (**www.wenlin.com**) offers similar for Chinese.

QUICK TIP

If you're working with foreign languages, OS X already comes with different keyboard layouts and alphabets. To access them, go to System Preferences > International. Pick the **Input Menu** tab and click on the languages you want to use. Click the checkbox **Show input menu in menu bar** to have instant access to those different layouts.

08 Take a test down memory lane

Learning isn't just about having access to information and reading it: it's about remembering. Many resources on the Mac come with facilities for testing what you've learned. Unsurprisingly, some of the best are designed for people going to school and revising for exams. Both Encyclopaedia Britannica and Letts produce excellent tools for teaching, revising and motivating you to learn a range of GCSE subjects, from sciences to humanities. At both GCSE and A-Level, the programs are more of a supplement to learning rather than the entire courses themselves, so don't think you'll be able to pass an exam using just the software. And also don't forget that being a student entitles you to an educational discount on your next Mac. Visit www.apple.com/uk/students.



MONSIEUR PÉNEQUE: Oh, oh, ça va, j'ai compris, je m'en vais. Tu n'oublies pas d'aller chercher le vin.

MR. PÉNEQUE: Okay, okay, I understand, I'm leaving.

understood

Berlitz Premier gives you an immersive environment in which to learn languages.

09 Learn a new language

Languages are the main area of interest for adult learning and present some unique challenges. As well as grammar and potentially a new alphabet to learn, there's inevitably the rote-learning required to remember the thousands of new words you'll need. Again, your Mac can help. Flashcards have always been the preferred way to learn vocabulary, and the advent of new media has allowed them to become more than simple double-sided bits of paper: now they can include sound files so you know how words are supposed to be pronounced. If you want to fashion your own flashcards, *iFlash* (http://loopware.com/) is far and away the best flashcard program: not only can you create multimedia flashcards for learning at home, but you can print them out to learn on the go, or you can synchronise your card decks with the free iPhone application. See the walkthrough on the previous page to learn more.

If you don't want to create your own flashcards, Byki's *Express and Deluxe* software (www.byki.com) covers more than 70 languages, and includes MP3s and a pronunciation tutor that analyses what you say and corrects it. There are also iPhone apps of the flashcards.

> *"You always have the potential to achieve more and your Mac can help you unlock that..."*

For those who want more complete language learning courses, *Rosetta Stone* (www.rosettastone.co.uk) is one of the most popular tools available – although it's also phenomenally expensive at £379 for a complete set of levels (one to three). It throws away the flashcards in favour of a more immersive approach, flooding you with words, images and the voices of native speakers, just as you learnt to speak English when you were a child. Many people will find EuroTalk's *TalkNow* application (http://eurotalk.com/en/) a cheaper and friendlier alternative, since it includes quizzes, games, a dictionary and MP3s. But at the top of the list is Berlitz's *Premier* language software (available from www.avonquest.com), which includes all the features of other software, as well as role-playing, videos and transcripts. It's only available for a few languages but it is only £29.35.

You always have the potential to achieve more. And your Mac can help you unlock that potential, if you know where to look.

Rob Buckley

10 A healthy body and a healthy mind

Apple can also improve your body! The most popular way of doing this is with the Nike+ system, compatible with iPod nanos, iPod touch (2nd gen) and the iPhone 3GS. Fit the Nike+ sensor to the pocket in your Nike+ shoe and it tracks your run and sends data back to your iPod or iPhone. You can create custom workouts and select particular goals such as calorie burning. When you're done, sync back with *iTunes* and you'll be able to keep track of your progress. You will also get workout routines and music to download, as well as podcasts.

Open Fitness
Fitness Tracking System

Open Fitness will keep tabs on your diet and provide fitness routines.

If you don't have Nike+ there are other options. *FitBody* (**www.personaldatatechnologies.com**) helps you track your diet and workouts. *Open Fitness* (**www.workout ware.com**) tracks your diet as well, but also tracks other measurements and lets you download routines.

For iPod/iPhone users, there are many fitness apps. Older iPods can use *iWorkOut* (**www.helmesinnovations.com**), while the iPod touch and iPhone have *FitPhone* and *iFitness*. *USMCTrainer* runs you through the US Marine Corps's fitness programme. Meanwhile, *Fitness Builder* (**www.pumpone.com**) includes 4,000 exercise images and videos, 400 workouts, a body measurement tracker, a weight tracker, a progress tracker and various timers.

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  Write up to 100MB/s

*based on Vertex 120GB

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Put your system in high-gear! OCZ Technology, a pioneer in Solid State Drives, leaves hard drives in the dust when it comes to performance. The all-new Vertex eries takes it to a whole new level with a trailblazing design that delivers superior sysem responsiveness, unparalleled speed, and a price that seals the deal. For an SSD that lives up to your performance standards, park nothing less than the Vertex in your system.

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novatech.co.uk
ebuyer.com
dabs.com
eclipse.co.uk
scan.co.uk
cclonline.com
aria.co.uk
microdirect.co.uk
yoyotech.co.uk
play.com
advancetec.co.uk

Publish your book online

Take advantage of Lulu.com to become a published author in minutes!

>> KEY INFO

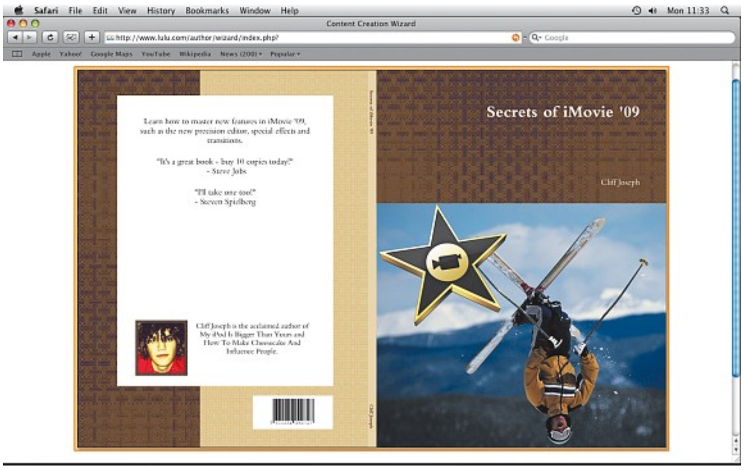
DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
30+ minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
A Mac with broadband internet, a spark of inspiration

They say that everybody has at least one good book inside them. Well, now there's no reason to keep it to yourself. Thanks to print-on-demand websites, like Lulu.com, which we feature here, you can publish your own book and even make a bit of money from it too.

Gone are the days when you needed an agent and publisher before anybody could read your work. With the internet it's possible for anybody to publish virtually anything in seconds.


Safari
File
Edit
View
History
Bookmarks
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Help
Mon 11:33
Content Creation Wizard
http://www.lulu.com/author/wizard/index.php?
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Apple
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Learn how to master new features in iMovie '09, such as the new precision editor, special effects and transitions.

"It's a great book - buy 10 copies today!"
- Steve Jobs

"I'll take one too!"
- Steven Spielberg

Cliff Joseph is the acclaimed author of My iPod Is Bigger Than Yours and How To Make Cheesecake And Influence People.

Secrets of iMovie '09

Cliff Joseph

If you've written a book, Lulu lets you publish and sell it online for a small commission.

Books aren't dead

There are a number of these publishing services available online, like Wordclay (www.wordclay.com) and Blurb (www.blurb.com), but Lulu is one of the easiest to use and isn't as US-oriented as some of its rivals. Lulu makes it easy to upload files – anything from a few photos to the text of a full-length novel – so that they can be printed on-demand whenever you or anyone else wants a copy. That keeps the costs down, making self-publishing a viable option and opening up some tantalising possibilities.

When you self-publish you have to do everything yourself, but there are templates and design tools for laying out pages and designing the cover of your book, and once it's finished you can choose whether to keep the book private so that you can just order copies for you and your friends, or whether to go the whole hog and set up your own online store to sell your books to the public. You have to pay Lulu 20% commission, which is a better deal than you'd get from most publishing companies, but there's no real marketing done for your book besides the limited amount on the Lulu website. Have a look there now to see if any book grabs your interest. There are thousands of titles to choose from in different categories and styles.

Getting creative

Unfortunately, Lulu can't provide the talent or inspiration for your book, but we're sure you can come up with some great ideas of your own! In this tutorial we'll show you how the Lulu site works and get you started. We are really impressed by how flexible and customisable the book creation process is with Lulu. With websites like this there's really no excuse for anybody to not create a great looking book. Obviously, the better paper quality and the more pages you have, the more your book will cost to buy, but it can often be worth spending a little extra to produce something nice. Don't forget to email us to let us know when your book is available!

Cliff Joseph

Finding the "CAN" in Cancer
Like a tree... Accept the rain, take deep... And reach...
A Practical Guide
Nancy Emerson, Pa...
Susan Moonan and Te...
the road letters
phil Ribaudo
FULL COLOR!
RICHARD BROWN'S
REPLIC WATC REPO
to Identi... Counterfe...
NEURON SYNDICATE
Riding The Storm Out
THE XBOX 360 UNCLOAKED
THE REAL STORY BEHIND MICROSOFT'S NEXT-GENERATION VIDEO GAME CONSOLE
DEAN TAKAHASHI
AUTHOR OF OPENING THE XBOX
Pantless in Ikea
Hannah Gosher
A Mem...
Bazaar Stories
Hemila Pedram

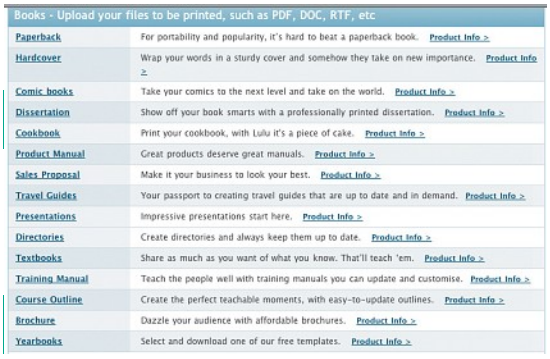
You can buy all these books from the Lulu website. Check it out today!

> *"Gone are the days when you needed an agent and publisher before anybody could read your work"*

HOW TO / Become a published author

01 Looking at Lulu

Just go to **www.lulu.com** to explore the publishing services that Lulu offers. There are a number of video tutorials and help files to explain how it all works, and when you're ready you can just click **Sign Up** in the top-right corner to create your Lulu account. Signing up to Lulu is very straightforward; you just need to enter some basic details such as your name and email address. The one thing that you might want to think about is the fourth entry on this page, where you specify the web address for your personal online bookstore.



Books - Upload your files to be printed, such as PDF, DOC, RTF, etc	
Paperback	For portability and popularity, it's hard to beat a paperback book. Product Info >
Hardcover	Wrap your words in a sturdy cover and somehow they take on new importance. Product Info >
Comic books	Take your comics to the next level and take on the world. Product Info >
Dissertation	Show off your book smarts with a professionally printed dissertation. Product Info >
Cookbook	Print your cookbook, with Lulu it's a piece of cake. Product Info >
Product Manual	Great products deserve great manuals. Product Info >
Sales Proposal	Make it your business to look your best. Product Info >
Travel Guides	Your passport to creating travel guides that are up to date and in demand. Product Info >
Presentations	Impressive presentations start here. Product Info >
Directories	Create directories and always keep them up to date. Product Info >
Textbooks	Share as much as you want of what you know. That'll teach 'em. Product Info >
Training Manual	Teach the people well with training manuals you can update and customise. Product Info >
Course Outline	Create the perfect teachable moments, with easy-to-update outlines. Product Info >
Brochure	Dazzle your audience with affordable brochures. Product Info >
Yearbooks	Select and download one of our free templates. Product Info >

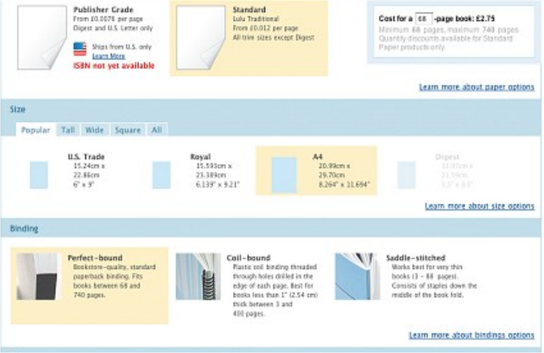
The list of different types of books you can publish is impressive.

02 On the books

Lulu now shows you a list of the different types of book you can publish. This can be anything from a paperback novel to a glossy cookery book, or even a comic book. Let's click on the **Paperback** option for our own little project – a book of hints and tips for *iMovie '09*. You start by entering the title of your book and your name. At this point you also need to specify whether the book will be kept private (for your own use only), whether it will go on sale just through Lulu, or even be made available through online stores such as Amazon.

03 Paper weight

The next step is to specify the format of your book, including details such as the size of the book, the quality of paper, and the type of binding. The cost of printing the book is indicated as you go along, and you can change these settings at any time if you make a mistake.



Publisher Grade
From £0.0076 per page
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Ships from U.S. only
Learn More
ISBN not yet available

Standard
Lulu Traditional
From £0.012 per page
All trim sizes except Digest

Cost for a 68 -page book: £2.75
Minimum 68 pages, maximum 740 pages
Quantity discounts available for Standard Paper products only.

Learn more about paper options

Size
Popular Tall Wide Square All

U.S. Trade
15.24cm x
22.86cm
6" x 9"

Royal
15.593cm x
23.389cm
6.139" x 9.21"

A4
20.99cm x
29.70cm
8.264" x 11.694"

Digest

Learn more about size options

Binding

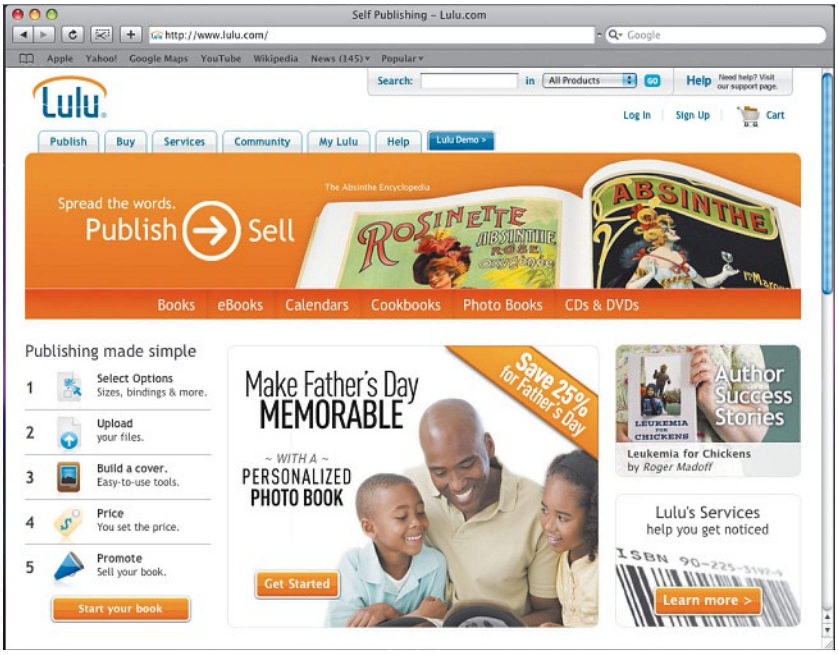
Perfect-bound
Bookstore-quality, standard paperback binding. Fits books between 68 and 740 pages.

Coil-bound
Plastic coil binding threaded through holes drilled in the edge of each page. Best for books less than 1" (2.54 cm) thick between 3 and 400 pages.

Saddle-stitched
Works best for very thin books (3 - 88 pages). Consists of staples down the middle of the book fold.

Learn more about bindings options

You can specify the size of your book, the quality of paper and the type of binding - all affect the cost.


Self Publishing – Lulu.com
http://www.lulu.com/
Google
Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (145) Popular
Search: in All Products GO
Help Need help? Visit our support page.
Lulu
Log In Sign Up Cart
Publish Buy Services Community My Lulu Help Lulu Demo >
Spread the words.
Publish Sell
The Absinthe Encyclopedia
Books eBooks Calendars Cookbooks Photo Books CDs & DVDs
Publishing made simple
1 Select Options Sizes, bindings & more.
2 Upload your files.
3 Build a cover. Easy-to-use tools.
4 Price You set the price.
5 Promote Sell your book.
Start your book
Make Father's Day MEMORABLE
Save 25% for Father's Day
~ WITH A ~ PERSONALIZED PHOTO BOOK
Get Started
Author Success Stories
Leukemia for Chickens by Roger Madoff
Lulu's Services help you get noticed
ISBN
Learn more >

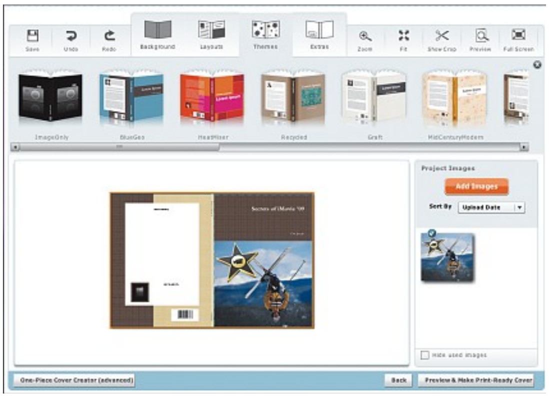
Once your book is uploaded and on the Lulu store it will be available for anybody in the world to buy.

QUICK TIP

As well as printing books on good old-fashioned paper, Lulu can also help you to publish your work in digital format, such as an e-book that can be read on mobile devices such as an iPhone. You can also use it to produce CDs and DVD discs, or even to sell music and video files online in a purely digital format.

04 Words' worth

You can now deliver the actual contents of your new masterpiece. Upload text documents in Microsoft *Word* format, and photos in JPEG or PNG file format. You can also design the layout yourself in programs such as Apple's *Pages* and upload the entire document as a PDF file. You can have complete control over how it looks.


Save
Undo
Redo
Background
Layouts
Themes
Extras
Zoom
Fit
Show Crop
Preview
Full Screen
ImageOnly
BlueGen
HeatWave
Recycled
Graft
MidCenturyModern
Project Images
Add Images
Sort By Upload Date
Secrets of iMovie '09
Hide used images
One-Piece Cover Creator (advanced)
Back
Preview & Make Print-Ready Cover

If you like you can design your book in Pages and then upload a PDF.

05 Cover to cover

Now you need to design an eye-catching cover. Lulu has a **Cover Creator** tool that makes it easy to design the cover and to add text and graphics for both the front and back pages – you can preview the final layout before printing. You can put your book on sale through Lulu's own website, but if you're aiming for a wider market you can buy additional marketing kits to help promote your book. These include options such as a commercial ISBN number, business cards and other promotional tools. ●

Organise your email

Use this great plug-in for Apple Mail to effortlessly manage email

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: A Mac running Apple Mail; Mail Act-On 2 (on the disc; requires Mac OS X 10.5 or later)

>> ON THE DISC

The Mail Act-On 2.0.5 trial is on the disc.

We're told not to bother filing email if we're using Apple *Mail* as our client. After all, what's the point in filing email away? Surely it's a waste of time, when Spotlight can later find emails via a simple search? Or when smart mailboxes can dynamically collect emails into user-defined mailboxes, based on all manner of criteria? But here's the thing: you benefit from a bit of filing, such as dropping emails into client mailboxes, or separating bills from emails sent by friends and family. And do you really want to have to search or create a smart mailbox every time you want to find an email?

The thing is, although dragging and dropping on the Mac makes filing simple, it's still tedious if you have lots of email, especially if you have many different destination mailboxes. This is where *Mail Act-On* can help. It's a *Mail* plug-in that can deal with most of the legwork, saving you valuable seconds each time you file an email. You use its HUD-style window to perform actions, move or copy email, or open a mailbox. Each option has a single-key shortcut assigned to it, and destinations for your selection can be filtered by typing (as per Spotlight); alternatively, if you have a mouse glued to your hand, you're still able to click away.

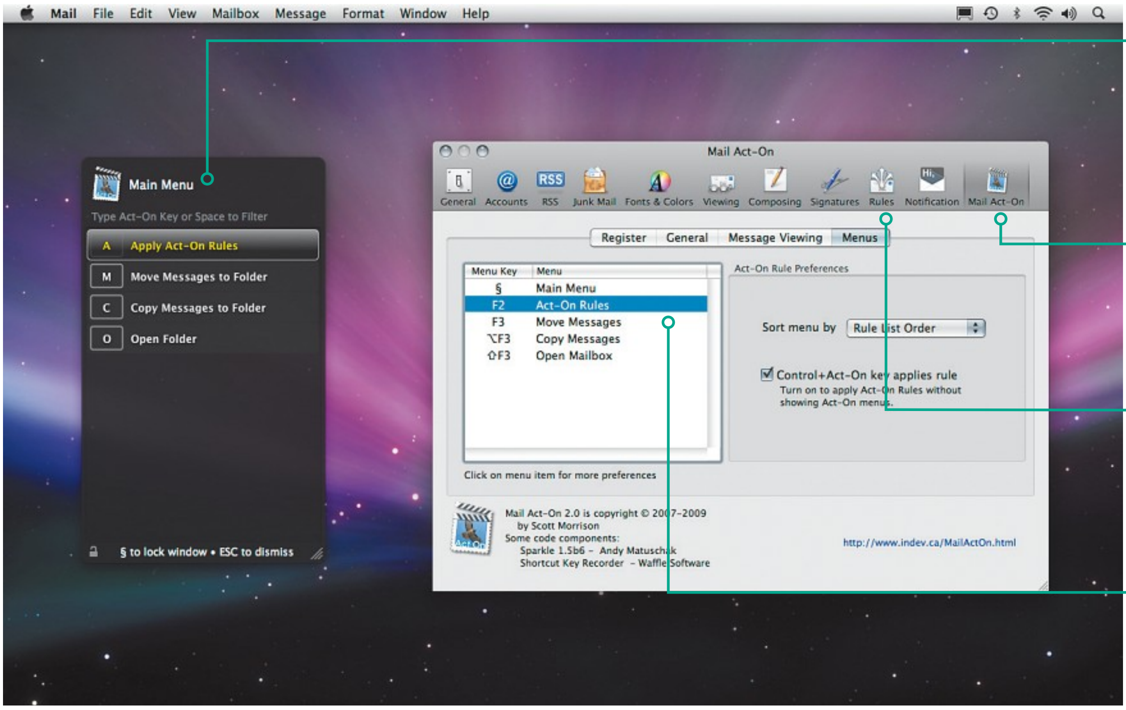
Mail Act-On also revamps the Rules section in *Mail*'s preferences, adding three tabs: Inbox Rules, Outbox Rules and Keystroke Rules. Inbox Rules are standard *Mail* rules; Outbox Rules enable you to define specific actions for sent mail (such as automatically moving email sent to a specific recipient to a user-defined mailbox); Keystroke Rules enable you to create actions and perform them on a selection by holding the ctrl key and prodding a user-defined shortcut, as shown in our walkthrough on the opposite page.

> *"Mail Act-On does the legwork and saves you valuable seconds each time you file an email"*

Although it's one of the pricier *Mail* add-ons at $25 (£15), we reckon once you've created some keystroke rules and burned the shortcuts into your muscle memory, you'll never go back. To try the walkthrough, there's a 21-day trial of *Mail Act-On 2.0.5* on this issue's disc. You can find out more about the application online at www.indev.ca.

Craig Grannell

>> QUICK LOOK / Find your way around Mail Act-On


Mail
File
Edit
View
Mailbox
Message
Format
Window
Help
Main Menu
Type Act-On Key or Space to Filter
A Apply Act-On Rules
M Move Messages to Folder
C Copy Messages to Folder
O Open Folder
§ to lock window • ESC to dismiss
Mail Act-On
General
Accounts
RSS
Junk Mail
Fonts & Colors
Viewing
Composing
Signatures
Rules
Notification
Mail Act-On
Register
General
Message Viewing
Menus
Act-On Rule Preferences

Menu Key	Menu
§	Main Menu
F2	Act-On Rules
F3	Move Messages
⌥F3	Copy Messages
⇧F3	Open Mailbox

Click on menu item for more preferences

Sort menu by: Rule List Order

☑ Control+Act-On key applies rule
Turn on to apply Act-On Rules without showing Act-On menus.

Mail Act-On 2.0 is copyright © 2007-2009
by Scott Morrison
Some code components:
Sparkle 1.5b6 – Andy Matuschak
Shortcut Key Recorder – Waffle Software

http://www.indev.ca/MailActOn.html

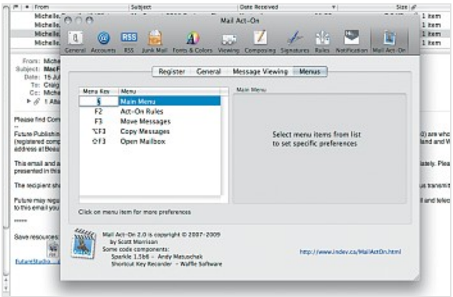
Main window
This is where actions are selected and destination mailboxes are filtered.

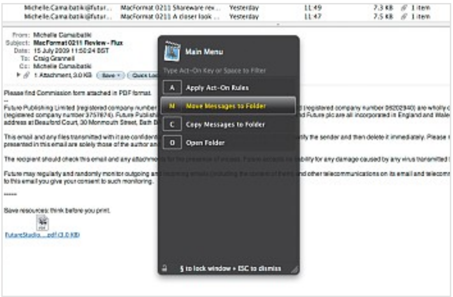
Preferences
Access *Mail Act-On*'s preferences within *Mail*'s preferences.

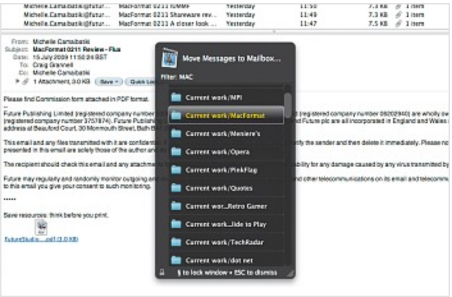
Editing rules
Edit rules via the standard **Rules** section of *Mail*'s preferences.

Menu keys
Set memorable and easy-to-reach menu keys via the **Menus** tab.

HOW TO / Make filing email easier and quicker


Mail Act-On
Register General Message Viewing Menus
Menu Key Menu
F1 Main Menu
F2 Act-On Rules
Move Messages
Copy Messages
Open Mailbox
Select menu items from list to set specific preferences
Click on menu item for more preferences


Main Menu
Type Act-On Key or Space to Filter
A Apply Act-On Rules
M Move Messages to Folder
C Copy Messages to Folder
O Open Folder
to lock window • ESC to dismiss


Move Messages to Mailbox...
Filter: MAC
Current work/MPI
Current work/MacFormat
Current work/Nexiere's
Current work/Opera
Current work/PinkFlag
Current work/Quotes
Current wor...Retro Gamer
Current work...lide to Play
Current work/TechRadar
Current work/dot net
to lock window • ESC to dismiss

01 Define some shortcuts

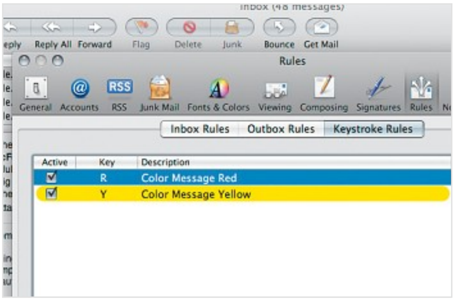
In *Mail*'s preferences, go to Mail Act-On > Menus to define menu keys for *Mail Act-On*. By default, shortcuts use function keys, but if you have a new Apple keyboard, change them to something else, to avoid 'special' keys (brightness (F1 or F2), *Exposé* (F3), etc.).

02 Move messages

Select one or more emails in your inbox (or another mailbox) and use the **Main Menu** shortcut (F1 by default) to see *Mail Act-On*. Press M (or click it, or navigate to it) to view a list of your mailboxes. This can be navigated using the cursor keys or scrollbar.

03 Use the keyboard

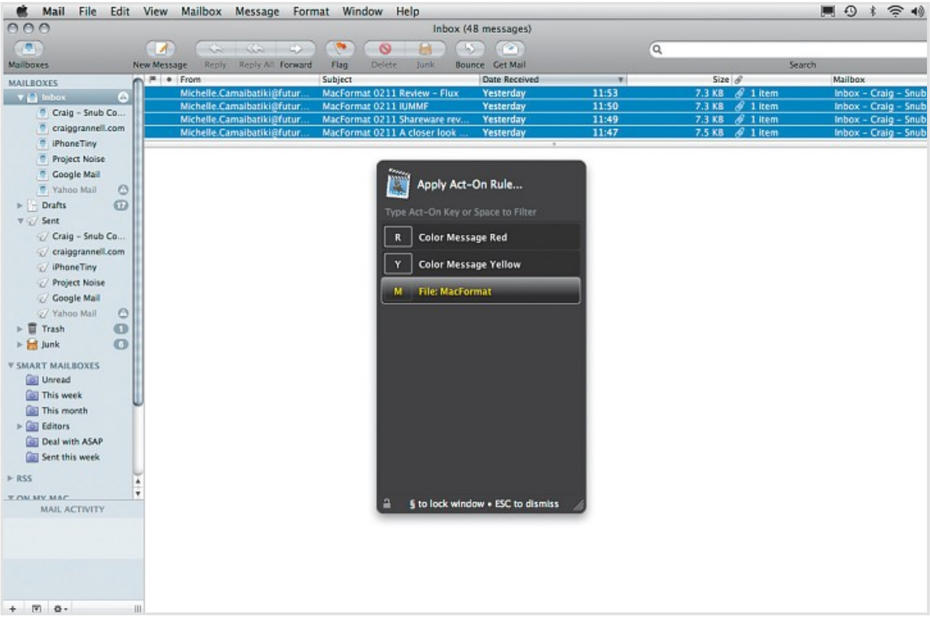
The quickest way to a folder is to start typing. Just like a **Spotlight** search, your folder list will be filtered as you type, eventually leading to your selection. On moving subsequent messages, number keys can be used to move selections to recent folders.


Reply All Forward Flag Delete Junk Bounce Get Mail
Rules
General Accounts RSS Junk Mail Fonts & Colors Viewing Composing Signatures Rules
Inbox Rules Outbox Rules Keystroke Rules

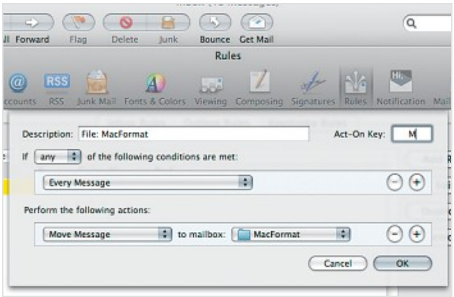
Active	Key	Description
☑	R	Color Message Red
☑	Y	Color Message Yellow

04 Discover Mail Act-On rules

Open *Mail*'s preferences and select **Rules**. This should now have tabbed sections. Click **Keystroke Rules**, and you should see two built-in rules. The **Active** checkboxes signify whether the rule is running; **Key** details the shortcut key associated with the rule.


Mail File Edit View Mailbox Message Format Window Help
Inbox (48 messages)
Mailboxes New Message Reply Reply All Forward Flag Delete Junk Bounce Get Mail Search
MAILBOXES
Inbox
Craig – Snub Co...
craiggrannell.com
iPhoneTiny
Project Noise
Google Mail
Yahoo Mail
Drafts
Sent
Trash
Junk
SMART MAILBOXES
Unread
This week
This month
Editors
Deal with ASAP
Sent this week
RSS
MAIL ACTIVITY
Apply Act-On Rule...
Type Act-On Key or Space to Filter
R Color Message Red
Y Color Message Yellow
M File: MacFormat
to lock window • ESC to dismiss

From	Subject	Date Received		Size		Mailbox
Michelle.Camaibatiki@futur...	MacFormat 0211 Review – Flux	Yesterday	11:53	7.3 KB	1 item	Inbox – Craig – Snub
Michelle.Camaibatiki@futur...	MacFormat 0211 IUMMF	Yesterday	11:50	7.3 KB	1 item	Inbox – Craig – Snub
Michelle.Camaibatiki@futur...	MacFormat 0211 Shareware rev...	Yesterday	11:49	7.3 KB	1 item	Inbox – Craig – Snub
Michelle.Camaibatiki@futur...	MacFormat 0211 A closer look ...	Yesterday	11:47	7.5 KB	1 item	Inbox – Craig – Snub


Forward Flag Delete Junk Bounce Get Mail
Rules
Accounts RSS Junk Mail Fonts & Colors Viewing Composing Signatures Rules Notification Mail
Cancel OK

Description: File: MacFormat Act-On Key: M

If any of the following conditions are met:

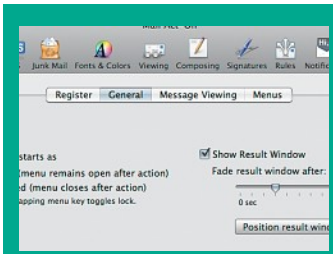
Every Message

Perform the following actions:

Move Message to mailbox: MacFormat

05 Create a rule

Click **Add Rule**. In the sheet, add a description and **Act-On** (shortcut) key. Set the **Perform the following actions**: menu to **Move Message** and a mailbox selection. Here, the rule **File: MacFormat** uses the M shortcut and will move our selection to the **MacFormat** folder.


Junk Mail Fonts & Colors Viewing Composing Signatures Rules Notific
Register General Message Viewing Menus
starts as
(menu remains open after action)
d (menu closes after action)
apping menu key toggles lock.
☑ Show Result Window
Fade result window after:
0 sec
Position result win

QUICK TIP

The **Mail Act-On** window starts 'unlocked', so it closes after an action is performed. The **Main Menu** shortcut toggles it between this and a 'locked' state, where it remains open. The **General** preferences let you set a default.

06 Use your rule

Click **OK** to save the rule and close *Mail*'s preferences. In a mailbox, select some emails you'd like to file in the folder from your rule. Activate the **Mail Act-On** window via F1 (or your defined **Main Menu** shortcut) and press A. You'll see the built-in rules and the one you created. Select the custom rule (click it or press the relevant letter) to file your email. **Keystroke Rules** speed this process up, because you don't even need the **Mail Act-On** window – instead, use ctrl and your defined **Act-On** shortcut key. In the case of our example, ctrl + M files any selected emails away in our **MacFormat** folder. Define rules for all your favourite folders and email filing will be fast and easy. ●

Secure your wireless network

Prudent security measures can be both simple and convenient to use

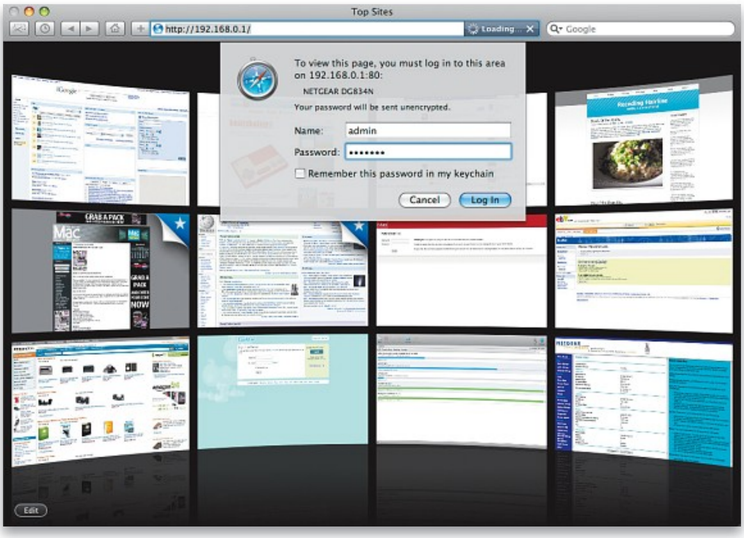
»KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
A modern wireless router

Though there are sound moral reasons for leaving a wireless network unsecured – letting anyone nearby share your internet connection; if it's cap-free, who cares? – most of us would like to keep things locked up nice and tight. Never mind rampant capitalism – "I paid for this connection, so nobody else should be allowed to use it" – many home broadband packages are capped at a certain amount of data transfer per month, which neighbours who join an unsecured network could bust, racking up penalty charges for you. And that's before we even begin thinking about the security of data flying over that wireless network, and the security of data residing on the hard disks of the computers in your household.


Top Sites
http://192.168.0.1/
Loading...
Google

To view this page, you must log in to this area on 192.168.0.1:80:

NETGEAR DG834N

Your password will be sent unencrypted.

Name: admin

Password: •••••••

☐ Remember this password in my keychain

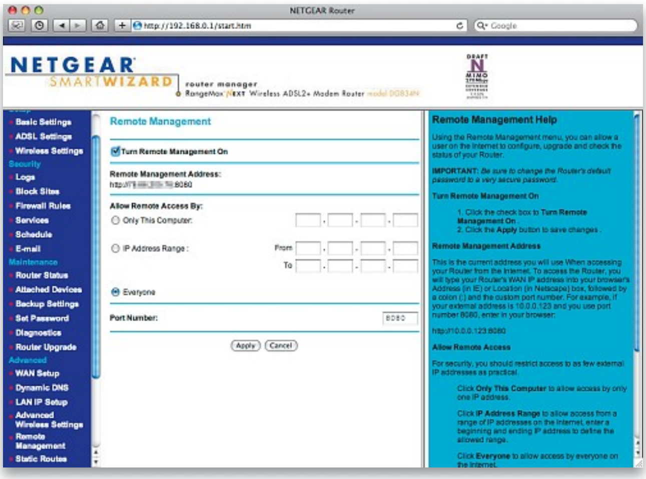
Cancel
Log In
Edit

At the very least, change your router's password so others can't log in and change your settings.

Wireless security

So, securing a wireless access point is a good idea. (Wired networks, whether they be Ethernet- or powerline-based are inherently more secure, so we're focusing on wireless networks here.) We'll show you how to lock your WiFi down. In the pictures you'll see us using a Netgear DG834N modem/router, but it's important you realise that the advice and techniques we describe can be used with pretty much any wireless router. The specific steps vary, but the basic ideas are the same; you begin by accessing your router's configuration utility – usually by entering its static IP address into a web browser, but in the case of some such as Apple's base stations, by using an application on your Mac (or PC) – and then make the configuration changes.

(Apple's latest AirPort Extreme Base Station has a trick up its sleeve: it can share your internet connection with a different password – or even none at all – keeping the computers and other resources on your internal LAN fenced off.)


NETGEAR Router
http://192.168.0.1/start.htm
Google
NETGEAR
SMARTWIZARD
router manager
RangeMax NEXT Wireless ADSL2+ Modem Router model DG834N
DRAFT N MIMO
Basic Settings
ADSL Settings
Wireless Settings
Security
Logs
Block Sites
Firewall Rules
Services
Schedule
E-mail
Maintenance
Router Status
Attached Devices
Backup Settings
Set Password
Diagnostics
Router Upgrade
Advanced
WAN Setup
Dynamic DNS
LAN IP Setup
Advanced Wireless Settings
Remote Management
Static Routes

Remote Management

☑ Turn Remote Management On

Remote Management Address:
http://[redacted]8080

Allow Remote Access By:
○ Only This Computer:
○ IP Address Range : From . . . To . . .
● Everyone

Port Number: 8080

Apply
Cancel

Remote Management Help

Using the Remote Management menu, you can allow a user on the Internet to configure, upgrade and check the status of your Router.

IMPORTANT: *Be sure to change the Router's default password to a very secure password.*

Turn Remote Management On

1. Click the check box to **Turn Remote Management On** .
2. Click the **Apply** button to save changes .

Remote Management Address

This is the current address you will use When accessing your Router from the Internet. To access the Router, you will type your Router's WAN IP address into your browser's Address (in IE) or Location (in Netscape) box, followed by a colon (:) and the custom port number. For example, if your external address is 10.0.0.123 and you use port number 8080, enter in your browser:

http://10.0.0.123:8080

Allow Remote Access

For security, you should restrict access to as few external IP addresses as practical.

Click **Only This Computer** to allow access by only one IP address.

Click **IP Address Range** to allow access from a range of IP addresses on the Internet, enter a beginning and ending IP address to define the allowed range.

Click **Everyone** to allow access by everyone on the Internet.

Some routers allow you to manage them remotely across the internet, but it has security implications.

> *"One of the most overlooked steps in creating a secure wireless network is to protect the router itself – and it's an easy job to do"*

A note about passwords before we begin. Far too many people use the same password for everything, and while it's unlikely to be disastrous if a security breach at Twitter, say, exposes your password to a social networking site, if you've used the same password for your bank, you're opening yourself to a much greater risk. And by using the same password on 30 sites, you're making it 30 times more likely that someone will be able to access one of the important ones.

Password reminders

It's not hard to create mnemonics to help you remember passwords for individual sites, or if you struggle, construct a system whereby each password-protected device or service gets a unique password based on a deducible-to-you formula. (Example: use @ppl3 – meaning apple, with characters substituted to transform it from a word found in the dictionary which would be more susceptible to a brute force attack – as a 'root' password, and append unique words to it. The password for Amazon would become @ppl3amazon, the password to your Netgear router would become @ppl3netgear, and so on.) Make your passwords strong, and be prepared to change them frequently; the Keychain can help here by remembering gobbledegook, but don't rely on it alone.

Christopher Phin

HOW TO / Make sure your wireless network is secure

01 Protect your router

One of the most basic but often overlooked steps in creating a secure wireless network is to protect the router itself. There are two ways to do this, and they're very simple. The first is to create a password to your router's admin page. This is distinct from – and should definitely be different to – the password you'll use in Step 4 to encrypt your data, and from any password you may need to log into your broadband connection. With an Apple router, you're prompted to do this when you're stepping through the setup assistant in *AirPort Utility*, but not all other routers are so obliging.

Manufacturers all tend to use the same IP address and login details – 'admin' with 'password', say – as defaults in all their routers. If you don't change these it's easier for anyone with malicious or moderately devious intentions to log into your router and change other security settings, potentially locking you out of your internet connection. So, log into your router and make sure you set a password.

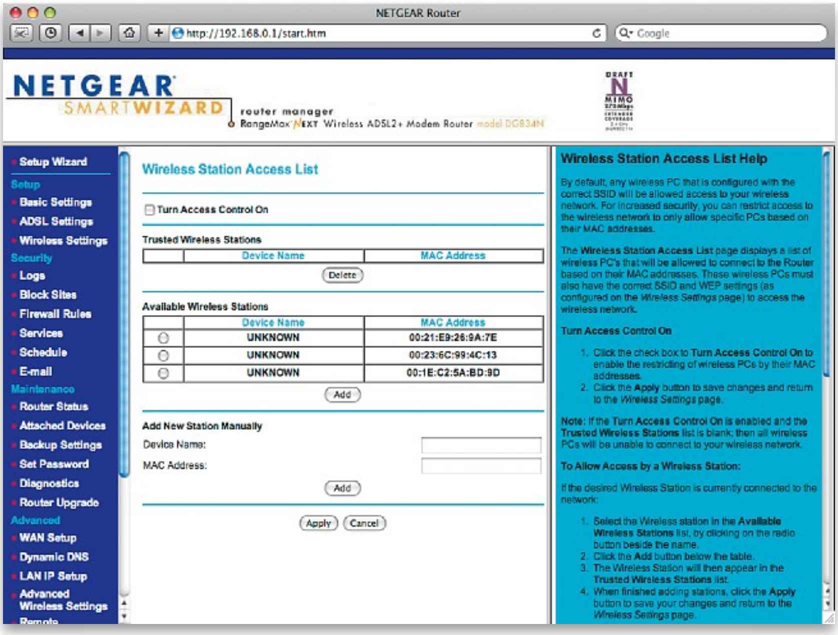
02 SSID masking

The other thing you can do is mask your router's SSID. The SSID – service set identifier – is basically the name of the wireless network that you create that appears in the **AirPort** menu when you try to connect from your Mac. Hiding it is a weak security measure on its own – it's not hard to discover – but there's no harm in doing so. To connect, you obviously can't select it from the **AirPort** menu; you simply have to choose **Join Other Network…** and then manually type whatever the name was you set for your SSID. (Feel free to alter the SSID from its default, by the way; leaving it as **NETGEAR** or whatever suggests that you may not have put other security measures in place, and in any case, setting it as **Tim's place** is much nicer.) Apple calls this SSID-hiding trick 'creating a closed network' in its routers.

03 MAC address filtering

Every network port – AirPort, Ethernet, Bluetooth and more – on every computer-like device has a unique identifying number, called its MAC (Media Access Control) address. It consists of six groups of hexadecimal digits, such as 01:23:45:67:89:ab. Apple calls your Mac's MAC address **AirPort ID** or **Ethernet ID**; you can see what the address of yours is from the **Network** pane of *System Preferences*. Because these identifiers are unique, you can tell your router to block access to all computers except those you explicitly allow. You'd gather the list of MAC addresses for the computers (and consoles, and WiFi-equipped phones, etc.) that you want to connect to your network, then 'whitelist' them on your router's config page. Remember that your Ethernet port and AirPort card have different MAC addresses, so if you want to be able to connect using both, you'll have to enter each.

This kind of filtering does have drawbacks. If someone visits, you have to discover then add their laptop's MAC address manually. It's also simple to 'spoof' a MAC address to make an unauthorised device steal a whitelisted MAC address and pose as legit. (Though you'd have to know or guess the correct address.) Also don't use MAC address filtering as your sole security measure, as the traffic on the wireless network would remain unencrypted; if someone was determined, they could sniff the packets and work out what data was being transferred.



Wireless Station Access List

☐ Turn Access Control On

Trusted Wireless Stations

	Device Name	MAC Address

Delete

Available Wireless Stations

	Device Name	MAC Address
○	UNKNOWN	00:21:E9:26:9A:7E
○	UNKNOWN	00:23:6C:99:4C:13
○	UNKNOWN	00:1E:C2:5A:BD:9D

Add

Add New Station Manually

Device Name:

MAC Address:

Add

Apply Cancel

Wireless Station Access List Help

By default, any wireless PC that is configured with the correct SSID will be allowed access to your wireless network. For increased security, you can restrict access to the wireless network to only allow specific PCs based on their MAC addresses.

The **Wireless Station Access List** page displays a list of wireless PC's that will be allowed to connect to the Router based on their MAC addresses. These wireless PCs must also have the correct SSID and WEP settings (as configured on the *Wireless Settings* page) to access the wireless network.

Turn Access Control On

1. Click the check box to **Turn Access Control On** to enable the restricting of wireless PCs by their MAC addresses.
2. Click the **Apply** button to save changes and return to the *Wireless Settings* page.

Note: If the **Turn Access Control On** is enabled and the **Trusted Wireless Stations** list is blank; then all wireless PCs will be unable to connect to your wireless network.

To Allow Access by a Wireless Station:

If the desired Wireless Station is currently connected to the network:

1. Select the Wireless station in the **Available Wireless Stations** list, by clicking on the radio button beside the name.
2. Click the **Add** button below the table.
3. The Wireless Station will then appear in the **Trusted Wireless Stations** list.
4. When finished adding stations, click the **Apply** button to save your changes and return to the *Wireless Settings* page.

You can deny all computers access to your network except those that you explicitly allow.

QUICK TIP

You could apply all of these security measures at once. They work together to ensure your network is as secure as possible at an everyday level.

04 Applying encryption

While the idea of password-protecting access to your network is good, the kind of passwords you apply to a wireless network are more than just dumb passes. What we think of as passwords are actually decryption keys; when you protect your network using WEP or WPA, the data as it's transmitted around your network is actually scrambled so that even if someone could see it, it would be gibberish. The 'password' that you use is actually the key to decrypt this data so that it's intelligible.

You'll usually set up encryption in your router's wireless section, and there are two main flavours to choose from: WEP and WPA. Actually, it's not really a choice. WEP is relatively insecure, so unless you have some very old kit – or, an odd, high-profile exception like a Nintendo DS – go straight to WPA, supported on the Mac since Mac OS X 10.3. Even then, there are options; most routers and devices will happily support the strongest consumer encryption, WPA2-PSK, but you may have to opt for a slightly less secure system if your older kit refuses to connect. A WPA2-PSK password can usually be any mix of ASCII characters between 8 and 63 characters long, and while most devices that you try to connect to the network will autodetect the encryption type used, you may have to define it manually. ●

>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Fix audio problems

Christopher Brennan takes a look at the Audio MIDI Setup app

>> PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x 2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

Every now and again my Mac does something unexpected; something which stumps me a little. I have to go and make a coffee and a mooch around the backyard and a chat with the neighbour, before sauntering back to my Mac Pro to figure out what could possibly be the problem. In some ways, the crash-bang-wallop of a hard drive going kaput or a monitor giving up the ghost is much easier to deal with. In these circumstances the first course of action is to go and make a coffee, of course, and mooch around the backyard for a while, before heading off to my nearest Mac reseller to replace the hardware. When it's not so clear-cut, some time to ruminate is always helpful.

Just such a scenario happened to me recently. I was getting myself geared up for the day, fired up *iTunes* and hit **Play** on my 'not played in the last six months' playlist. To my chagrin the audio was awful, as if my music collection had been ripped from CD then copied to tape, then onto another tape and back to my Mac. I skipped a track to rule out a botched transfer from CD or rotten download from the iTunes Store, but the scratchy sound continued. No matter what track was playing the sound coming from my speakers was not good.

So the first port of call was the speaker connection on the rear of my Mac. I took it out and put it back in again; no change. Perhaps a reboot was needed, but before I did that I opened the **Sound** control panel by going to System Preferences > Sound > Output. Everything here was fine too. Balance was dead centre and volume not all the way to the top. I rebooted and went for a cup of coffee.

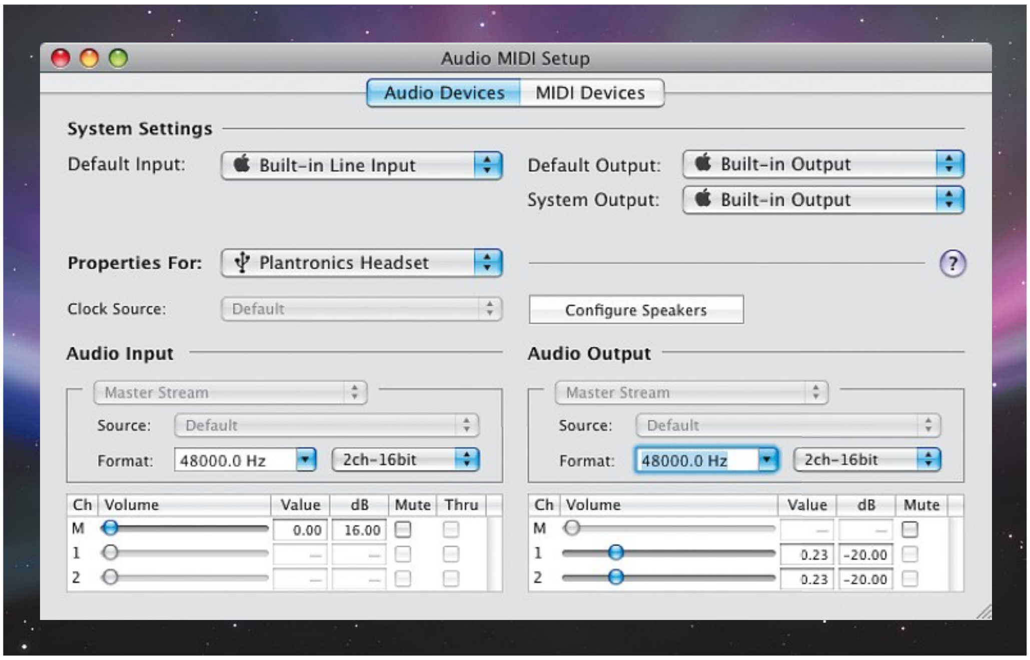
When I returned I once again launched *iTunes* and pressed **Play**. Sadly, the music still sounded bad. This was terrible. How could I get any work done without music? The fear that my music collection had somehow become tainted and would have to be re-ripped or imported from my backup was a serious one. Doing this would have a negative impact on my working day and mean less time to make coffee.

It was at this point that the caffeine began to kick in and I remembered the lonely and often overlooked *Audio MIDI Setup* application tucked away in the Application > Utilities folder. Could something have happened to the settings in this application to make Daniel O'Donnell sound like he was singing into a bucket a good six feet from a microphone?

> *"The fear that my music collection was tainted and would have to be re-ripped was serious. This would mean less time to make coffee"*

The solution

It was the settings. My speakers use a USB connection to move the audio digitally from hard drive to woofers and tweeters, and this, it seems, caused the issue. Somehow the settings had been changed and instead of a crisp and clear 48000.0Hz they were set to a muddy and scratchy 6400.0Hz. If your audio suddenly goes awry and you have a digital speaker setup, here's how to fix your problem. Go to the **Utilities** folder and launch *Audio MIDI Setup* by double-clicking it. Select your speakers from the **Properties For:** drop-down menu. Select the speakers you're using, and in the **Audio Output** section select the **Format** drop-down and select the top setting available to you. You should also make sure the format is set to **2ch-16bit**. Once this is done your music will be back to its normal quality and you can get on with your day. Time for a well-earned coffee! ●



Audio MIDI Setup

System Settings
Default Input: Built-in Line Input
Default Output: Built-in Output
System Output: Built-in Output
Properties For: Plantronics Headset
Clock Source: Default

Audio Input
Master Stream
Source: Default
Format: 48000.0 Hz 2ch-16bit

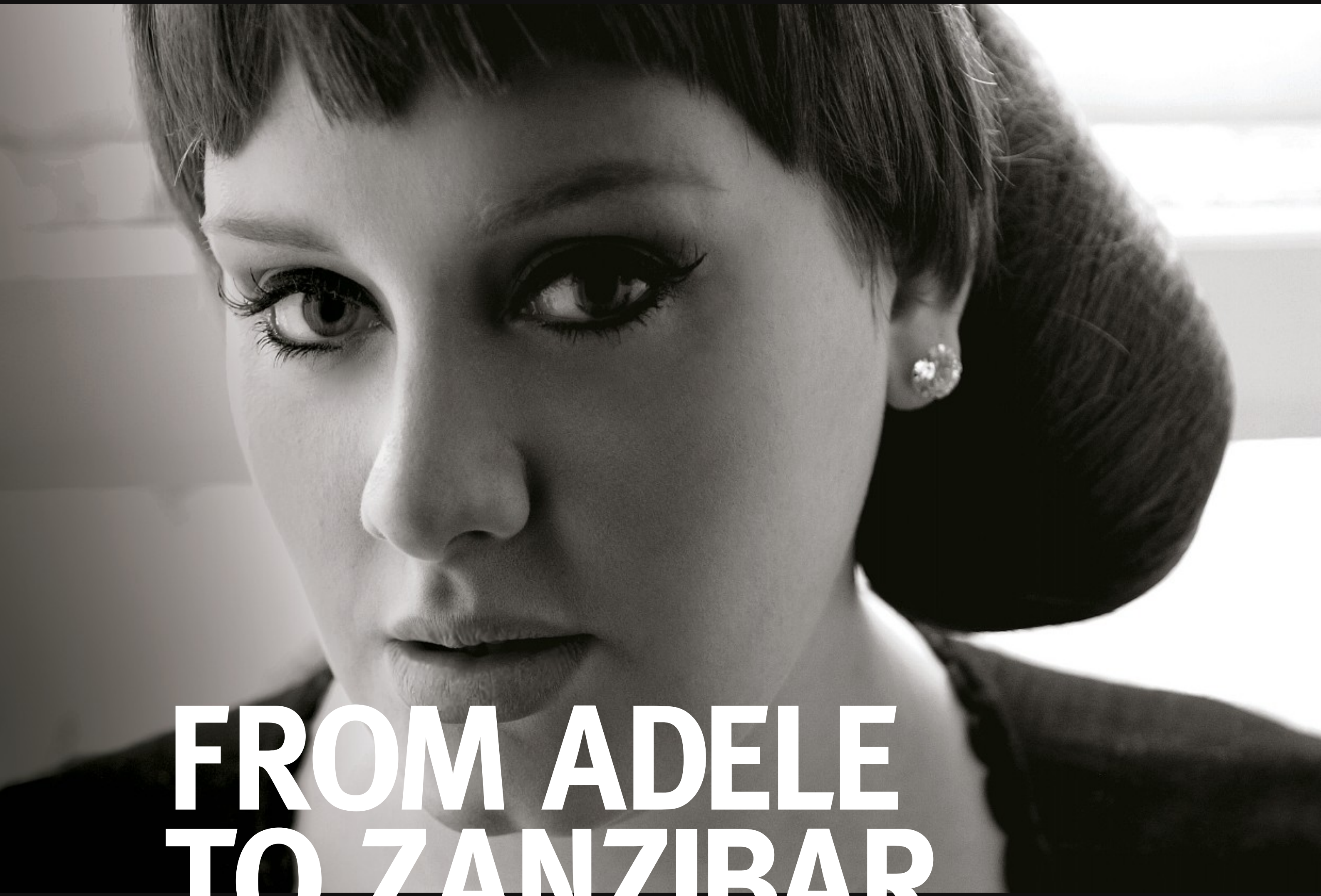
Ch	Volume	Value	dB	Mute	Thru
M		0.00	16.00	☐	☐
1		–	–	☐	☐
2		–	–	☐	☐

Audio Output
Master Stream
Source: Default
Format: 48000.0 Hz 2ch-16bit

Ch	Volume	Value	dB	Mute
M		–	–	☐
1		0.23	-20.00	☐
2		0.23	-20.00	☐

Audio MIDI Setup offers you more control over the audio from your Mac than the standard System Preferences pane.

emusic



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What makes MobileMe worth paying £59 a year for?

Can Apple justify charging Mac owners for an email address and some syncing shenanigans? **Adam Banks** finds out

Apple's suite of online services made headlines last year when it changed its name from .Mac to MobileMe. Not because anyone cared what it was called, but because the revamp went so badly that the internet resounded for months with the caterwauls of dissatisfied users.

To cut a long story short, MobileMe is now fixed and does all the things it was supposed to – syncing your email, contacts and calendars between devices; hosting websites; storing and transferring files, and creating online photo galleries – without falling over. Which is nice. But are those things enough to justify the asking price of £59 a year? Let's take a closer look at what you get for your cash.

Mail bonding

MobileMe's best trick is 'push'. When someone sends you an email, it pops up immediately on your iPhone or iPod touch, wherever you may be (that's if you've got a WiFi connection or, with the iPhone, O2 reception) cutting out the need to waste time and battery checking every few minutes just in case. Any changes to *Address Book* or *iCal* are also transferred. It all works the other way round as well, so contacts and appointments you add on the move are immediately reflected on your Mac.

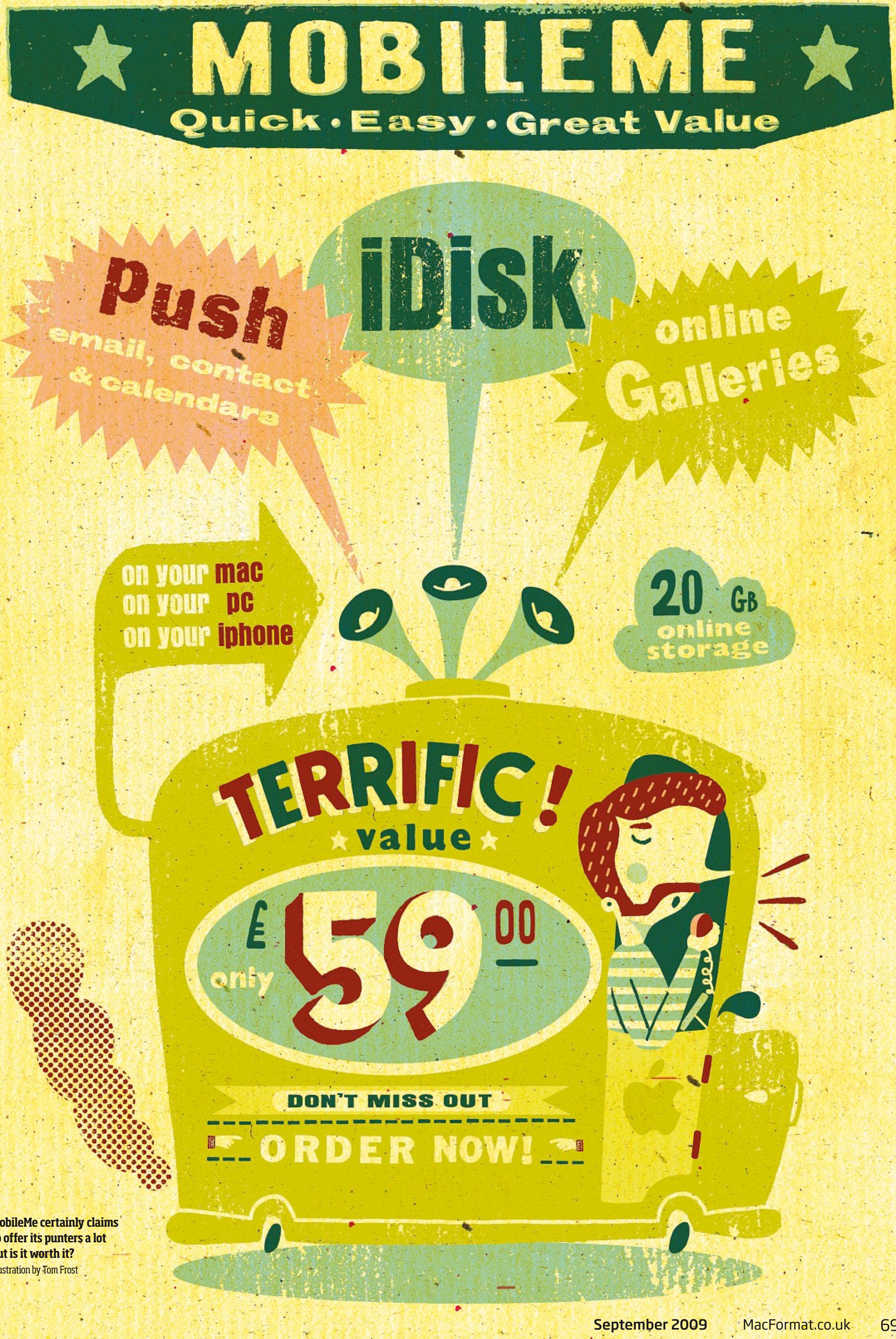
Emails appear on the iPhone faster than texts, sometimes within one second of being sent. In fact, syncing can be almost too fast: click the *To Do* icon in OS X *Mail*, and the new item appears on your iPhone before you've even typed what it is you have to do. The only limitation is, as far as we can establish and despite claims to the contrary, that MobileMe doesn't push to your Mac – *Mail* still has to check the server at preset intervals, set in Mail > Preferences > General.

> **"With MobileMe's 'push', emails appear on the iPhone faster than texts"**

It's incredibly convenient to know you'll see the same messages, contacts and calendars on your main Mac and iPhone or iPod touch, any other Macs running Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later and PCs: MobileMe can also sync Microsoft *Outlook* and Windows *Address Book*, and a MobileMe **Control Panel** is installed in Windows as part of the *iTunes* download (the latest version is 1.4).

MobileMe isn't the only way to sync, though. Google Mail, for example, can also sync and push to Macs, PCs and iPhones, and Google Calendar and Contacts can join the fun too. However, while setting up MobileMe is as easy as entering your member name and password, Google's tools take a bit more effort if you want to get them to sync. It's not impossible, but there's a fair bit of head-scratching involved before it typically runs smoothly.

If you get your work email from a Microsoft Exchange server, you can get email pushed to your iPhone or iPod touch by setting up an Exchange ActiveSync account, as explained at **http://support.apple.com/kb/HT2480**. However, you can't have it both ways: mail can only be synced from MobileMe or Exchange, not both. (With contacts and calendars, both systems can coexist but won't merge with each other.) If you use, say, Exchange for work and MobileMe for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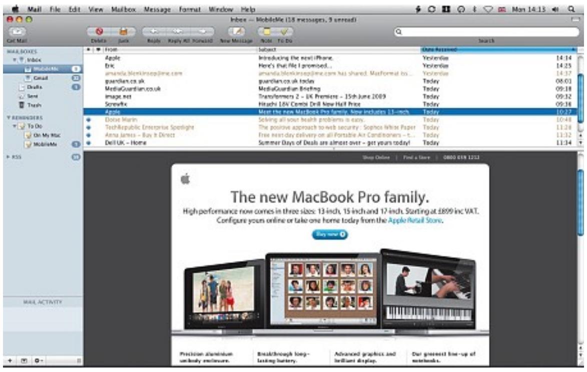
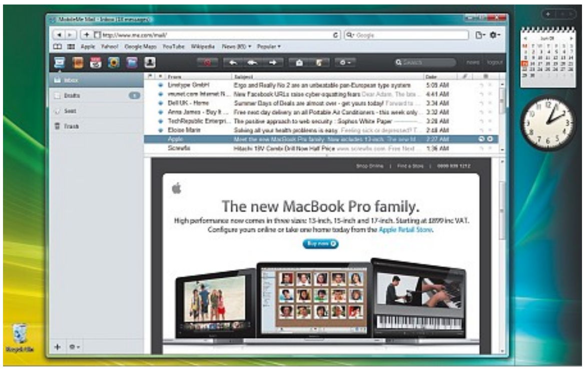
MobileMe certainly claims to offer its punters a lot but is it worth it?
Illustration by Tom Frost


The new MacBook Pro family.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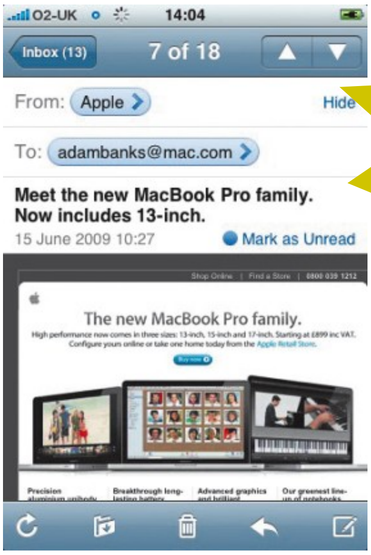


From: Apple

To: adambanks@mac.com

Meet the new MacBook Pro family. Now includes 13-inch.

15 June 2009 10:27

Mark as Unread

The new MacBook Pro family.

With MobileMe you can see the same mail, contacts and calendars on your main Mac in OS X Leopard, an older Mac running Tiger, an iPhone or iPod touch, or on a PC via Safari for Windows.

"Back to My Mac gives you control of your Mac from another over the net"

personal email, a solution is to sync one and set the other to forward all mail to that account.

iDisk, therefore I am

A standard MobileMe account includes 20GB of server space, shared between emails, photo galleries, *iWeb* sites and your iDisk, which provides general purpose storage. For comparison, a free Google Mail account provides over 2.5GB. Third-party storage and file transfer services offer more: Dropbox (www.getdropbox.com), for example, gives you 50GB with its Pro 50 option, but you have to pay about the same as MobileMe just for this one service.

iDisk is superbly easy to use. On your Mac it's constantly available in *Finder*, and you can drag files in and out, search it or do anything else you'd do with a hard disk, despite the fact that it's 'in the cloud', on Apple's servers. Your iDisk's Public folder can be freely accessible or password protected, so you share files with other users or invite them to drop files in. Like every other aspect of MobileMe, your iDisk is also accessible via www.me.com, where you can select any file and click Share File to email someone a link to it.

The web interface lacks features such as search, which is annoying if you actually have to access your iDisk via a browser. But you don't. Even on a PC (whether running Windows XP or Vista), you can go to Computer, click Map Network Drive in the toolbar, set Folder to http://idisk.me.com/membername, click Connect using a different user name, and enter your MobileMe name and password. Et voilà, your iDisk is accessible like a hard drive. Similarly, on a Mac without MobileMe set up, just go to Connect to Server (press ⌘+K in *Finder*) and enter http://public.me.com/membername.

Back to My Mac is another feature that ensures you can get to the data you need. It gives you full control of your own Mac (as long as it's switched on) from another over the internet. This works well, but both Macs have to be running Leopard and you may have problems with some firewalls or routers – our ageing but otherwise serviceable Belkin 802.11g couldn't handle it – so it may not be as useful as it looks. Alternatives such as *LogMeIn* (https://secure.logmein.com/) are less seamless and/or cost money.

Lost and found

By the time you read this, it should be possible to access your iDisk from your iPhone or iPod touch using an iDisk app. Meanwhile, the iPhone 3.0 OS has a few new exclusive tricks for MobileMe users via www.me.com.

Find My iPhone shows your iPhone's location on a GPS map and optionally

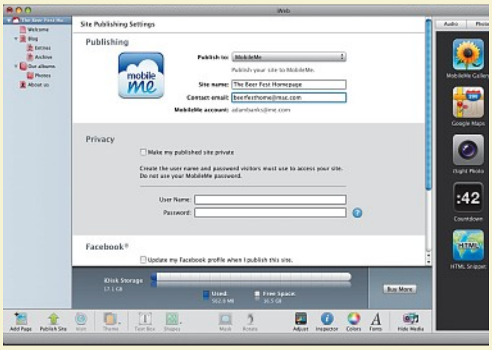
» iWEB AND MOBILEME / Creating and publishing a website

Apple's *iWeb* doesn't claim to be the most advanced web design tool, but it does aim to be the easiest to use. With MobileMe, it's close to foolproof. Create the pages you want using the supplied templates, then click **Publish**, and you've got a website.

People have been put off *iWeb* by its limitations, but many of these have been removed. Don't want your homepage to be **web.me.com/membername**? Buy a domain name from any provider and point it to your *iWeb* site by following the guide at **http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1107**. But what if you need more than one website? You can set up as many sites as you like in *iWeb '09*.

It's impossible to overstate how easy *iWeb* is to use. Other methods of creating a site involve fiddling about with server settings, troubleshooting glitches and getting your head round exactly what steps are required to build something and make it appear online. If you don't mind that, you can publish from *iWeb* to your own web server, but some features – like user comments and the ability to let users search your site – won't work.

You only get the full benefit of *iWeb* with MobileMe, so it's another reason to subscribe.



Site Publishing Settings

Publishing

Publish to: MobileMe

Publish your site to MobileMe.

Site name: The Beer Fest Homepage

Contact email: beerfesthome@mac.com

MobileMe account: adambanks@me.com

Privacy

☐ Make my published site private

Create the user name and password visitors must use to access your site. Do not use your MobileMe password.

User Name:

Password:

Facebook®

☐ Update my Facebook profile when I publish this site.

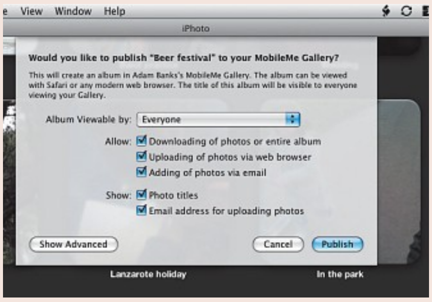
iDisk Storage 17.1 GB

Used: 562.6 MB

Free Space: 16.5 GB

You will reap the full benefits of iWeb if you also have MobileMe.

MOBILEME GALLERY / Sharing photos online



Would you like to publish "Beer festival" to your MobileMe Gallery?

This will create an album in Adam Banks's MobileMe Gallery. The album can be viewed with Safari or any modern web browser. The title of this album will be visible to everyone viewing your Gallery.

Album Viewable by: Everyone

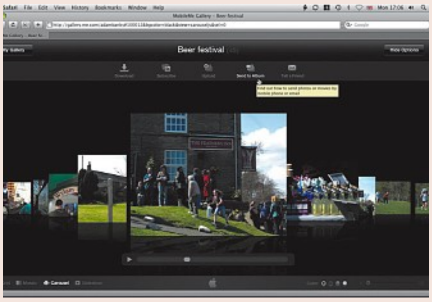
Allow: ☑ Downloading of photos or entire album
☑ Uploading of photos via web browser
☑ Adding of photos via email

Show: ☑ Photo titles
☑ Email address for uploading photos

View
Window
Help
iPhoto
Show Advanced
Cancel
Publish
Lanzarote holiday
In the park

01 Other users' logins

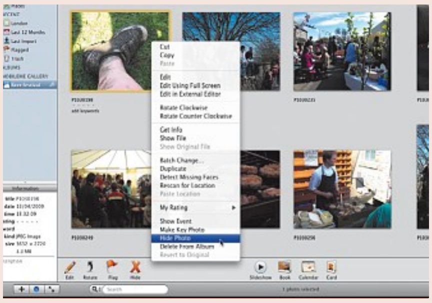
In *iPhoto*, select an album in the list at the left, then click the **MobileMe** icon at the bottom-right. Choose who'll be able to view the gallery (under **Album Viewable by:**, choose **Edit Names…** to create logins for others) and whether photos can be added.



Beer festival

02 Adding photos

Click **Publish**. Your album is now available at **gallery.me.com/membername**. To add photos (if permitted), click either **Upload** or **Send to Album**, which provides an email address. Pictures can be sent to this address from any device that supports email.

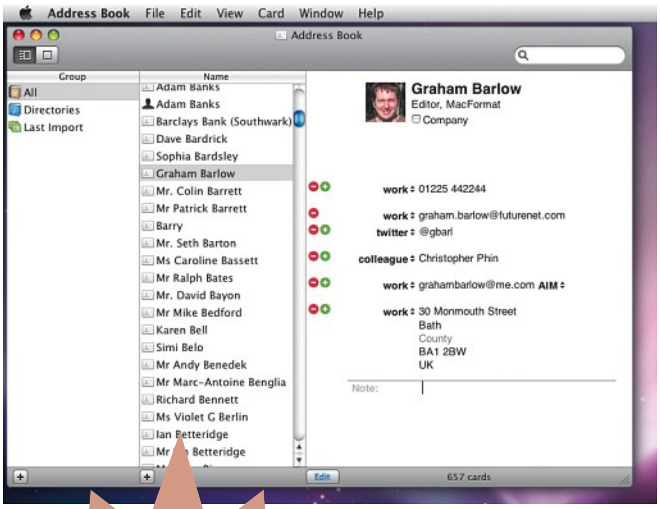


03 Live album

Under **MobileMe Gallery** in *iPhoto*'s left column you'll find your 'live' album. If others add pictures online, they'll appear here; if you add or remove pictures here, the changes are reflected online (reload the page if the Gallery is open in your browser). ●

transmits a message to it while playing a loud sound for two minutes. That will be a more reliable way of discovering where you put your phone than the traditional routine of dialling your own number, running around the house listening for the ring until it goes to voicemail, hanging up and redialling!

If you really have lost your iPhone and there's stuff on it that you don't want others to see, you can also use **Remote Wipe** to delete everything on it – knowing that if you do get it back, most if not all of your data can be reinstated by re-syncing to MobileMe and *iTunes*. Not something everyone will use every day, but reassuring.



Graham Barlow
Editor, MacFormat
☐ Company

work: 01225 442244
work: graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter: @gbarl
colleague: Christopher Phin
work: grahambarlow@me.com AIM
work: 30 Monmouth Street
Bath
County
BA1 2BW
UK

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Directories
Last Import
Name
Adam Banks
Adam Banks
Barclays Bank (Southwark)
Dave Bardrick
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Graham Barlow
Mr. Colin Barrett
Mr Patrick Barrett
Barry
Mr. Seth Barton
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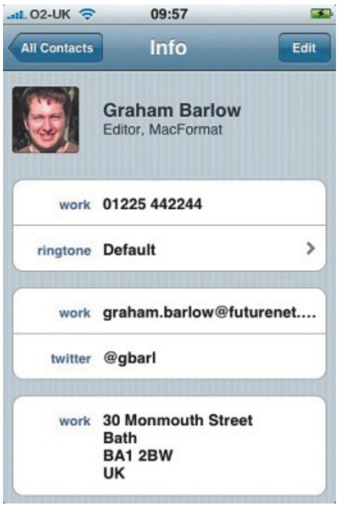
Mr Ralph Bates
Mr. David Bayon
Mr Mike Bedford
Karen Bell
Simi Belo
Mr Andy Benedek
Mr Marc-Antoine Benglia
Richard Bennett
Ms Violet G Berlin
Ian Betteridge
Mr Betteridge
Edit
657 cards



Graham Barlow
Editor, MacFormat

work 01225 442244
ringtone Default
work graham.barlow@futurenet....
twitter @gbarl
work 30 Monmouth Street
Bath
BA1 2BW
UK

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All Contacts
Info
Edit

You can forget juggling contacts when everything's synced between the Apple tools on your Mac(s) and iPhone or iPod touch.

For non-iPhone users

If you don't have an iPhone or touch, MobileMe is still useful for syncing email, contacts, calendars and other data between multiple Macs and any PCs. Among the extra bits and bobs you can choose to sync are bookmarks (in *Safari* on both Mac and PC or *Internet Explorer* in Windows), Dock items and various application and system preferences.

Using a conventional POP email account means either getting email only on one of your machines or struggling to avoid ending up with your messages divided among several. If that's the way you've been working, MobileMe's IMAP-based mail, where each machine accesses the same data from Apple's server, is a revelation. You can still keep a copy of all your mail on your hard disk. In Apple's *Mail* app, this is set in Mail > Preferences > Accounts > MobileMe > Advanced > Keep copies of messages for offline viewing.

You can get most of MobileMe's functionality with third-party tools, but not all come with a single solution or the same simplicity. Google's mail and web services are comprehensive, and offer more functionality if you have to use a web browser for access, but feel a bit messy and fiddly.

It's also worth bearing in mind that MobileMe comes with free 24-hour live chat support. We tried this on a weekday and a Sunday, and got quick, polite and correct answers.

For most people with a second Mac (or PC) and/or an iPhone or iPod touch, the combination of unique features, decent amounts of storage, effective sync and push, and consistent presentation between devices makes MobileMe worth the outlay. That doesn't mean, Apple, that we wouldn't like to see it get a bit cheaper. ●

> "Bear in mind that MobileMe comes with free 24-hour live chat support"

Q&A

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.

HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline @futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

Why won't AirPort Extreme work on my network?

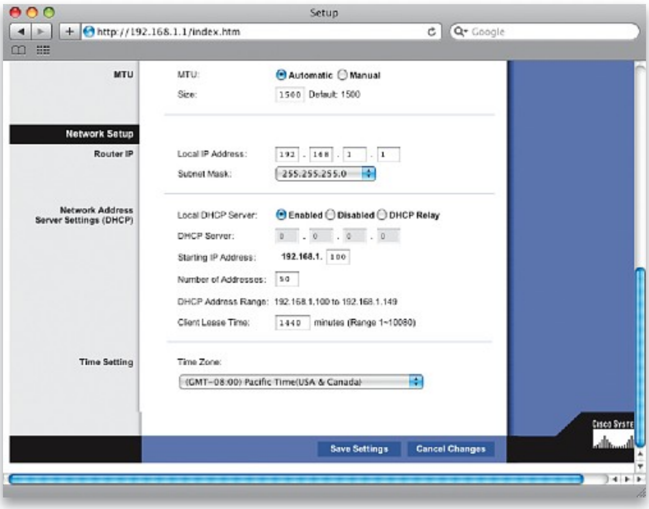
Q I have a brand-new AirPort Extreme Base Station that is lying dormant because I can't get it to work with my D-Link DSL320B or my Draytek Vigor 100. Surely, they can't both be incompatible with Apple? Or might this be an issue with my ISP? I live on the Isle of Man and use Manx Telecom.

Jim Tyzack

A There is no compatibility hurdle, at least in principle. So the question then becomes: why doesn't your AirPort Extreme work on your network? And that's a pretty big topic. In broad brush-strokes, here's what you need to do. First, check that the devices work by themselves. If you plug the broadband modems directly into your Mac with a length of Ethernet cable, can you reach the internet? Can you see the AirPort Extreme in Applications > Utilities > AirPort Utility? Can you put two AirPort compatible Macs in range and reach one through the other? Now take the Ethernet cable out of your Mac and plug it into the WAN port of the AirPort Extreme, so that the broadband modem and the Extreme are wired together and the Mac and the Extreme are connected wirelessly.

If your internet connection disappears when you reach this step, this is probably because you have different TCP/IP settings on the two devices. Pull up *Safari* and enter the IP address of the modem as the URL to get to the configuration page (the factory default is 192.168.1.1 for the Draytek and 192.168.1.0 for the D-Link). Make sure you have DHCP enabled for both the modem and the AirPort Extreme.

If the AirPort Extreme doesn't work on your network check it shows up in AirPort Utility.



MTU: ● Automatic ○ Manual
Size: 1500 Default: 1500
Local IP Address: 192 . 168 . 1 . 1
Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0
Local DHCP Server: ● Enabled ○ Disabled ○ DHCP Relay
DHCP Server: 0 . 0 . 0 . 0
Starting IP Address: 192.168.1. 100
Number of Addresses: 50
DHCP Address Range: 192.168.1.100 to 192.168.1.149
Client Lease Time: 1440 minutes (Range 1~10080)
Time Zone: (GMT−08:00) Pacific Time(USA & Canada)

You can configure your router directly from Safari by entering its IP address.

Where has my MacBook Pro's Dashboard gone?

Q There are times with my MacBook Pro when I cannot activate *Dashboard*, ⌘+⇥, screenshot, etc. Nothing happens. I've taken the computer several times to the Genius Bar but everything works fine in the store. I will reboot and everything works fine… for a while. Then, the cycle repeats itself.

Steven Schweon

A This definitely sounds very weird but we can essentially classify it under the "Randomly, A Thing Happens" category. Persistent, but intermittent glitches like this tend to have a physical cause. Heat is a common culprit but we can rule it out in your case because a reboot would not immediately correct this. Likewise, a faulty keyboard connection. This pretty much only leaves us with bad RAM as a possible cause. When a single bit in RAM gets stuck as a permanent zero or one, it is actually an entirely deterministic fault but it appears random to the end-user because that physical memory address may be used to hold different code on successive boots, depending on the order in which programs are loaded and how much data is held in RAM. And a stuck bit will only be "wrong" 50% of the time, in any case.

I would certainly rule out any software glitch by reinstalling a clean copy of OS X from the original discs

MacBook Pro

It's even easier to replace RAM on the latest MacBook Pros than on previous models.

and testing your MacBook Pro without any other software on it. But if bad RAM is responsible, it's actually relatively simple to replace – depending on what model of the MacBook Pro you have, you might be able to buy a RAM upgrade and use this to replace the RAM that is already there. On some models, the pre-installed RAM is fairly tricky to get at and you might want to get this done by an authorised service centre.

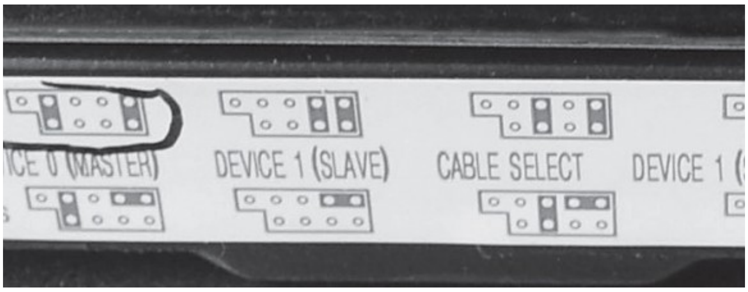
How am I able to boot OS 9 from a SCSI disk?

Q I have just upgraded my G4 AGP Graphics to 768MB of RAM and added a second hard drive (120GB). This has allowed me to install OS X 10.4.2 as things, especially web browsing, were getting extremely difficult under OS 9.2.2. I had some problems configuring the new drive and found I had to format and partition it in Target Mode from another Mac. I found, incidentally, that the other computer could only 'see' the master drive, though I may have configured one wrongly (see the photo below for some of the options). The CPU is too slow (400MHz) to run Leopard and I have a number of peripherals and software that will only run with OS 9.2.2. There is no SCSI driver at all in Tiger. Where would I get a working driver?

Donald Todd

A I've read it several times but I'm still not entirely sure I completely understand your question. Your G4 would have originally shipped with an IDE disk drive (SCSI drives were only standard on the G3 Macs) and your new drive is IDE as well (SCSI drives don't use the master/slave distinction). So, why do you need a SCSI driver, exactly? Perhaps you replaced your original G4 disk drive with a SCSI disk but if you have applications that will only run in OS 9, you don't need to be able to access the drive from Tiger, you will need to boot into OS 9 directly. Personally, I would recommend partitioning the 120GB drive and putting OS 9 on a small chunk of that – it makes backing up that much simpler. But even if you want to keep your SCSI drive, you should be able to swap between them at boot time.

»



Master and Slave jumper settings indicate that your disk is an IDE drive.

Looking off colour?

Bill Gallop

There are a number of different ways to reproduce colour. The screen that I'm looking at is made up of an array of red, green and blue pixels. The page that you are reading this on is printed using cyan, magenta, yellow and black inks. Modern inkjet printers may even use 10 or more colours of ink including multiple shades of black.

If you need a specific colour you might use an ink of that exact shade, called a spot colour, for example Quark uses a specific green called 'Pantone 368' and if I want something printed using that precise colour I'll use a ready-mixed ink. But, what happens if I want to print that document on an inkjet as a proof copy or want to use it in a document that I am creating and want to make sure that it looks right on screen? Each of the different ways of reproducing colour have a range of shades that they are capable of producing (this is known as a colour gamut), and it's possible to have a colour on the screen that will be pretty much impossible to print correctly on your printer.

If your work is colour critical then you need to ensure that what you see on the screen is what you see on your printer and so you will need to calibrate one to the other.

> *"It's entirely possible to have a colour on screen that will be pretty much impossible to print correctly on your printer…"*

With a calibration tool such as the ColorMunki (**www.colormunki.com**) you can check how your screen displays known reference colours and how your printer prints them. You can then create profiles for the screen and printer to ensure that colours on both devices match exactly. Screens change with age, CRTs more so than LCDs, but even they will fade over time. Generally an inkjet printer will be designed to use specific paper and the ink will react differently if an alternative is used. This means that the colour will be different – paper designed for a specific printer is more expensive for a reason. Calibration will be specific to an individual monitor, printer and paper since there will be variations between devices of the same model, and as things will change over time you will need to recalibrate regularly.

Beyond the technology, environmental conditions have an impact. Natural light is a different colour during the morning compared to midday and light bulbs produce a range of what is ostensibly white so another part of a colour critical workflow is to control your lighting.

Bill Gallop is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month Bill will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

QUICK TIP

iPhoto arranges photos into **Events** for photos taken on the same day. Change this in **Preferences** to weekly so that your holiday pics are grouped together.

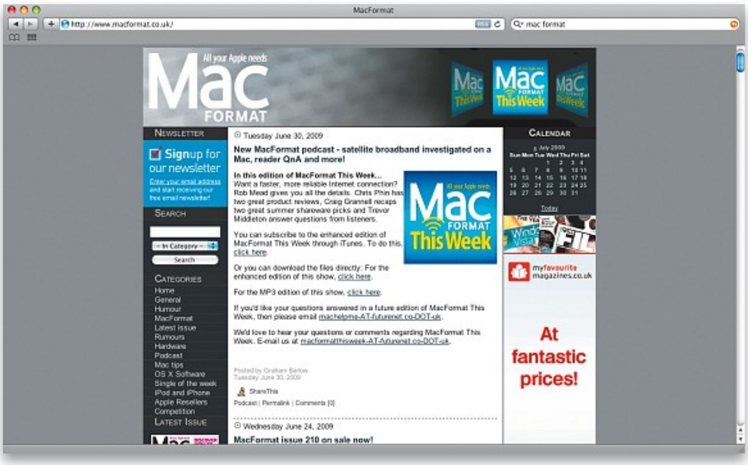
Why won't my Mac Pro wake up from Sleep mode?

Q In MF207 you helped me stop my desktop Mac Pro waking up all the time, but now can you find the cause of it refusing to wake up? I daren't put it to sleep, because if I do I cannot wake it. No amount of tapping the keyboard (anywhere!), nor even the brief pressing of the start-up button, will make it wake. The little green light continues to wink at me. In the end I have to hold the start-up button to force quit, and then restart. Again something inherited from my G4 via *Time Machine*. I'm running OS X 10.5.7.

Laurie North

Sleepy Mac Pro: could the culprit be a faulty logic board or video card?

A Macs that won't wake from sleep have been around for as long as there has been a Sleep mode to wake from, and I see no signs of a permanent solution any time soon. Some of the things that can prevent a Mac from waking are faulty logic boards, faulty or miss-seated RAM, faulty video cards, bugs in the Bluetooth firmware, OS X bugs, application bugs, corrupted Safe Sleep disk images and static shocks. Intermittent failure to wake is almost impossible to diagnose; certainly at a distance, like this, but if your Mac *never* successfully wakes from Sleep, I would suspect a logic board fault and get it looked at by the good folk at your nearest Genius Bar or authorised service centre.



Tuesday June 30, 2009

New MacFormat podcast - satellite broadband investigated on a Mac, reader QnA and more!

In this edition of MacFormat This Week... Want a faster, more reliable Internet connection? Rob Mead gives you all the details. Chris Phin has two great product reviews, Craig Grannell recaps two great summer shareware picks and Trevor Middleton answer questions from listeners.

You can subscribe to the enhanced edition of MacFormat This Week through iTunes. To do this, click here.

Or you can download the files directly: For the enhanced edition of this show, click here.

For the MP3 edition of this show, click here.

If you'd like your questions answered in a future edition of MacFormat This Week, then please email machelpme-AT-futurenet.co-DOT-uk.

We'd love to hear your questions or comments regarding MacFormat This Week. E-mail us at macformatthisweek-AT-futurenet.co-DOT-uk.

Posted by Graham Barlow
Tuesday June 30, 2009

Wednesday June 24, 2009

MacFormat issue 210 on sale now!

Zooming your window out to fill the entire screen doesn't make a lot of sense for many apps.

Why no maximise option for viewing windows?

Q A couple of months ago I changed over to a Mac, which I have come to love. However, there is just one thing that is driving me insane. The viewing window will not open to full-screen without dragging it! I contacted the Apple Store who told me the window will open up to the size it needs to be, which it obviously isn't! I can appreciate that it may not be possible to do this because of Microsoft patents etc, but why not be honest and say that instead of perpetuating this nonsense?

Clive Totman

A OS X has three window sizing buttons on every title bar: red closes the window, yellow minimises it to the Dock and green is zoom. It's the last one that bugs every Mac switcher at first. In Windows, the equivalent button toggles between full-screen and the window dimensions you used last. This was a reasonable thing to want to do back when we were all using 15-inch monitors but on a 24-inch screen, running your word processor or *Safari* full-screen is rarely useful. Instead, the green zoom button sizes the window to the minimum size needed to contain the window's contents – without scrolling if possible. But it still toggles back to the previous size you had set and most applications remember this preference between sessions so you can still size your windows to full-screen if you want.

MACFIXIT TIPS / Slow Safari 4 downloads

Some users may experience their download rates in *Safari 4* slow to a crawl. If your internet settings are correct and functioning properly, the issue could be related to a corrupt *Safari* download preference file.

Apple Support Discussions user AhmadNo reports: "When I bought my MacBook Pro in 2009 I used *Safari* for few days then I switched to *Firefox*, and the reason for that is that downloading any kind of files goes very slow to around 5KB/sec while downloading the same file in any other browser is so fast. After the release of *Safari 4* I thought this problem could be solved but, here again, I had the exact same problem. I really love the new *Safari* except that this problem is really annoying me. By the way browsing is working perfectly fine."

Possible fix

Apple Support Discussions user Hawaiian_Starman suggests:

"Might be a corrupted download file. Via *Finder*: Your User Account > Library > Safari folder. Move the **downloads.plist** file to the trash, then restart *Safari* and try a download."

As always, when moving or deleting preference files, be sure to have a stable backup of your Mac. We recommend simply moving the preference file to your Desktop before deleting it. If the issue is solved, you can then delete the file.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MACFIXIT TIPS / Accounts not available in login or accounts preferences

OS X user accounts have a variety of attributes that determine how the account behaves. For instance, the user and group ID numbers, and paths to the **Home** folder directory are ways the system determines what permissions the account has, and where to store personal information such as account-specific system settings.

There are also account attributes that help the system recognise the accounts, and if they get altered either manually or through some corruption, then the accounts may not be properly handled by the OS.

Apple discussion poster **Koopa4747** writes: "I have an account that I'm changing the login name on. Problem is the user folder is there but, the user is not listed in **Accounts**. The user is on the list at login. I've tried removing the user folder to no avail."

When OS X creates an account, it stores many of the account-specific settings in a commonly used plist XML format. This plist is available in the local accounts database, which is available in a hidden folder at the root of the drive. In most cases where accounts stop behaving as they should, this plist file is somehow either not accessible or does not have the account settings stored properly.

Unfortunately, just deleting and recreating the account in *System Preferences* (if it shows there) may not fix the problems with the plist file, and the new account may still be behaving strangely. So removing the file manually (which will delete the account) and then recreating the account may be required.

To do this, log into a separate administrator account and open *Terminal*. Then enter the following command to remove the plist:

```
sudo rm /var/db/dslocal/nodes/Default/users/
SHORTNAME.plist
```

In this command, "SHORTNAME" is the short login name (**Home** folder name) of the account in question. After providing your password and pressing ↩ the account should be disabled. Then go to System Preferences > Accounts and create a new account with the same name as the previous one. The system should ask you if you would like to use the current home folder with the same name, and choosing **yes** should restore the account exactly as it was before the errors.

MacFixIt
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Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

If an application offers a full-screen view, you can use the Keyboard Shortcuts pane of Keyboard & Mouse preferences to create a shortcut for that feature and if you set the same one for all the applications that have such a feature, you'll simplify things slightly. But not all applications do. There is a plug-in for *Safari*, called *Saft 11.0*, available from www.versiontracker.com that adds (among many things) a full-screen mode, though.

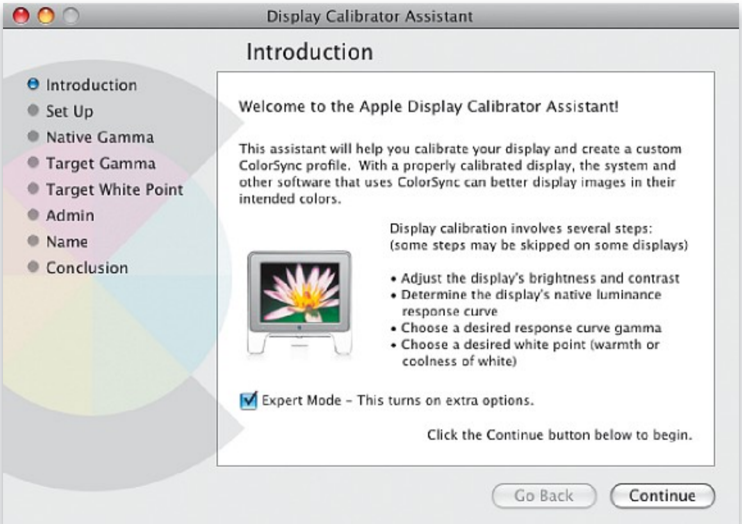
Can I stop iPhoto from launching automatically?

Q **When connecting my iPhone up to my computer, it syncs the images with *iPhoto* straight away. This is a very annoying feature. Could you please advise me on what I have to do to prevent the automatic syncing from iPhone to *iPhoto*?**

Eva Maria Kuettner

A What you can do is go to the *iPhoto* preferences and tell it not to open when a device is connected. However, this is an all-or-nothing option that applies to *all* devices. You can't tell *iPhoto* to open when you connect your digital camera but not your iPhone, I'm afraid.

Or at least, you can't without busting out AppleScript. If you need to do this, you'll find instructions in the step-by-step box on the next page.



Welcome to the Apple Display Calibrator Assistant!

This assistant will help you calibrate your display and create a custom ColorSync profile. With a properly calibrated display, the system and other software that uses ColorSync can better display images in their intended colors.

Display calibration involves several steps:
(some steps may be skipped on some displays)

- Adjust the display's brightness and contrast
- Determine the display's native luminance response curve
- Choose a desired response curve gamma
- Choose a desired white point (warmth or coolness of white)

☑ Expert Mode – This turns on extra options.

Click the Continue button below to begin.

Accurate monitor calibration is like vintage wine - only some people can taste the difference.

My photos are too dark: how can I lighten them?

Q **I download my Olympus C350 images onto *iPhoto*. Whilst the images produced on the screen are very clear with good colour definition, when I print them out on an Epson Stylus Photo RX620, they are of poor definition and are often too dark or under-exposed. Even when I made a Photo Book in *iPhoto* and had it printed, the results were still disappointing**

Peris Sinnett-Jones

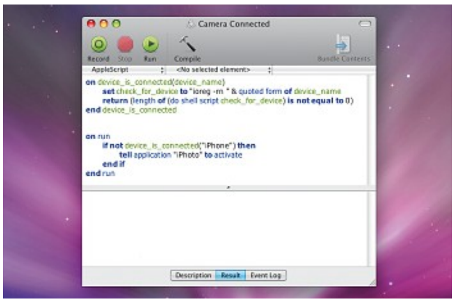
A It is entirely possible for corrupted *iPhoto* preferences to mess up printing exposures, so it is always worth dragging Library/Preferences/com.apple.iphoto.plist into the Trash to see if that makes any difference. However, it's more likely though, that this is simply a result of the inevitable mismatch between monitor displays and paper prints. You can go a long way to remedy this by properly calibrating your monitor in Display prefs > Colour > Calibrate. Bill Gallop's column on page 73 also provides some useful advice.

It's worth noting that Mac displays use a gamma value of 1.8 whereas most printers are calibrated to the PC standard of 2.2. Set your monitor to this gamma as part of the display calibration process, which should give you a better idea of how your pictures will look once they are printed. »

QUICK TIP

After you activate *Exposé* (with F9 or F3) you can use the ⇥ key to step through different applications. *Exposé* will shuffle the windows around to highlight just the open windows that belong to one application at a time.

HOW TO / Make iPhoto open for your camera, but not your iPhone



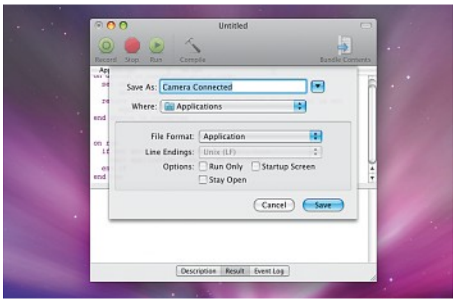
```
on device_is_connected(device_name)
	set check_for_device to "ioreg -rn " & quoted form of device_name
	return (length of (do shell script check_for_device) is not equal to 0)
end device_is_connected


on run
	if not device_is_connected("iPhone") then
		tell application "iPhoto" to activate
	end if
end run
```

01 Create a script

Open Applications > AppleScript > Script Editor and type:

```
on device_is_connected(device_name)
 set check_for_device to "ioreg -rn " & quoted form of device_name
 return (length of (do shell script check_for_device) is not equal to 0)
end device_is_connected
```

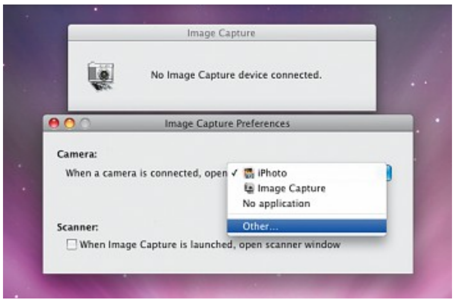


Save As: Camera Connected
Where: Applications
File Format: Application
Line Endings: Unix (LF)
Options: ☐ Run Only ☐ Startup Screen
☐ Stay Open

02 Save the script

Now add the lines:

```
on run
 if not device_is_connected("iPhone") then
  tell application "iPhoto" to activate
 end if
end run
```



No Image Capture device connected.

Camera:
When a camera is connected, open ✓ iPhoto

Scanner:
☐ When Image Capture is launched, open scanner window

03 Launch it automatically

Click File > Save As… and set the format to **Application**. Save it to the **Applications** folder. Open Applications > Image Capture and the preferences pane. Click **Other** and select the script. This runs when a camera is inserted but for the iPhone it quits before starting *iPhoto*. ●

QUICK TIP

For cool photos in *Address Book*, you can click the swirly button on the set photo dialog and choose from the *Photo Booth* effects as well as some new ones, like ASCII art.

Where has my external drive disappeared to?

Q My iMac running Mac OS X 10.5.7 no longer recognises my Iomega external hard drive. It was working perfectly fine until I set up a wireless network. Also if I open *Time Machine* and click Choose backup disc, the box that opens up is completely blank. Before setting up the wireless network it backed up without problem. Please help!

John Moore

A Is your Iomega drive a network disk? If so, then this could just be a question of the same IP address being used twice or (more likely) the disk drive belonging to a different subdomain than the rest of your network. Open Network Preferences > Advanced > TCP/IP and look at the Subnet Mask. If the mask is 255.255.255.0, then this means that the first three numbers in the IP address of your network disk must match the first three numbers of the IPv4 address of your Mac. And the last number must be unique among all network devices.

On the other hand, if your Iomega drive connects via USB then the wireless network is either introducing some kind of subtle electromagnetic interference (unlikely in the extreme) or isn't responsible at all. Have you tried disabling AirPort? Do this and reboot and if your Iomega drive is still not recognised then WiFi is not to blame. External disk drives do sometimes just fall off the radar; cycling the power is usually all it takes to prod them into life. Alternatively, your disk may have failed completely, which unfortunately is another very common behaviour.

MACFIXIT TIPS / AirPort firmware update trouble

Some users have reported frustrations regarding the performance of their iPhones on their home wireless networks after the latest firmware update to Apple's wireless AirPort devices, 7.4.2.

Apple Support Discussions user jeremybrigden writes: "I have a 10MB/sec cable connection and an AirPort Extreme (firmware 7.4.2). I just connected to WiFi on my 3GS and the results are bad! My MacBook connects at 9.74 MB/sec down and 500KB/sec up. My iPhone 3GS connects at between 85 and 512KB/sec down and 115 and 365KB/sec up.

- I used **Speedtest.net** and their application to test the connection speeds.

- WiFi signal strength was displayed as full bars.

- There were no other open WiFi connections while each device was tested.

- I then cycled the phone on and off.

- I reset the network settings.

Are these speeds a result of a software setting on either the iPhone or the AirPort Extreme?"

Possible fix

Apple Support Discussions user Jamie Kennea suggests a solution: "I think this issue is caused by the 7.4.2 AirPort Extreme update. I noticed much slower download speeds on my home WiFi network since that particular upgrade, I was speed testing at 1.5MB/sec using **speedtest.net** on my computers and my iPhone 3GS.

I have just now downgraded the AirPort Extreme to 7.4.1 and now my speed test is reporting 9.1MB/sec, back to what it should be. I did the downgrade by right-clicking on the **AirPort** icon in the *AirPort Utility*, clicking **Upload Firmware** and selecting the 7.4.1 firmware. I'm sticking with that for now as it gave me no problems before."

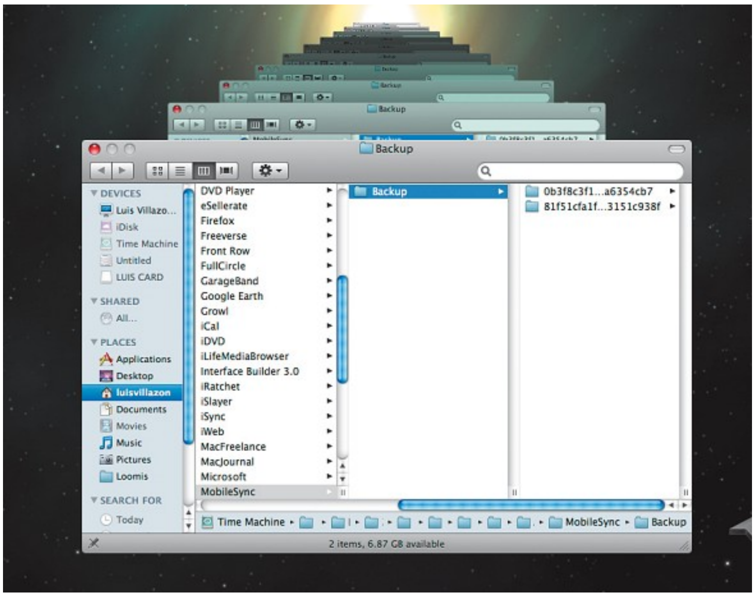
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

How has my Inquisitor app broken Safari 4?

Q MF210 recommended downloading *Inquisitor* for use with *Safari*. Since then, restarting *Safari* (4.0.1) has become totally impossible. It opens for maybe a few seconds before it decides to crash. I have removed


Backup
DEVICES
Luis Villazo...
iDisk
Time Machine
Untitled
LUIS CARD
SHARED
All...
PLACES
Applications
Desktop
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Documents
Movies
Music
Pictures
Loomis
SEARCH FOR
Today
DVD Player
eSellerate
Firefox
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Front Row
FullCircle
GarageBand
Google Earth
Growl
iCal
iDVD
iLifeMediaBrowser
Interface Builder 3.0
iRatchet
iSlayer
iSync
iWeb
MacFreelance
MacJournal
Microsoft
MobileSync
Backup
0b3f8c3f1...a6354cb7
81f51cfa1f...3151c938f
Time Machine
MobileSync
Backup
2 items, 6.87 GB available

There's no need for iTunes to keep lots of iPhone backups. That's what Time Machine is for.

***Inquisitor* but *Safari* continues to crash. In desperation, I used *AppZapper* to remove all of the old *Safari* files, and downloaded it again. No good.**

What have I done? I am now having to rely on *Firefox*.

Duncan Tuck

A If you have *Time Machine* running, you could try rolling your entire Applications folder back to its state prior to installing *Inquisitor* but I'm not confident this will make any difference. I think a subtle bug in *Safari 4.0.1* is more likely. Try reinstalling *Safari 3* from your OS X DVD and wait until the version number increments before trying 4.0.1 again.

Can you help me find old iPhone backups?

Q I updated my iPhone to 3.0 yesterday evening but it has managed to delete all of my text messages, as well as changing the name of my iPhone from 'Russ' iPhone' to plain 'iPhone'.

I've tried doing a Restore, but really annoyingly, because I unplugged my phone and then plugged it back in again, it had done an auto-backup after the update, and it only let me restore my phone to that backup. Does *iTunes* keep old backups stored anywhere?

Russell James

A iPhone updates – and indeed updates in general – always cause problems for some users. This is merely the default position for software. The 3.0 update changed the way that notes, text messages and recent call history are stored so it's perhaps not surprising that you might lose text messages. However, I can't find anyone else whose iPhone is suffering with your specific problems. But let's not stress about that – this is why *iTunes* backs up your iPhone before updating. And even though it only stores just the one backup, if you have *Time Machine* enabled, you effectively have one backup every hour. Navigate to ~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync/Backup in *Finder* and enter *Time Machine*. Now you can tardis your way back to just before you did the update and restore that folder. Then you'll be able to hop back into *iTunes* and restore the backup to the iPhone. ●

AT&T
9:42 AM
Text
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
Maps
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q I recently gave my daughter's iBook G4 to my wife and transferred her files over using FireWire. In Preferences > Accounts I have my wife as the Administrator. If I click on her name in the menu and log in, the Mac is in our daughter's name. However, my wife's iPhone syncs to the Mac as my daughter's. How do I change the ownership of the iBook?

Lorimer Joined: 15 Apr 2004 Posts: 161 Location: Guildford, Surrey, UK

A Go to System Preferences > Sharing & change the computer name.

Peggy Joined: 16 May 2004 Posts: 140 Location: Washington, USA

Q Yesterday, my 20-inch four-year-old iMac presented me with a screen full of horizontal green lines, rather like barcodes. I've run *TechTool Pro* and *DiskWarrior* but there's no improvement. A friend said it could need a new logic board.

macmanmike Joined: 29 Jun 2009 Posts: 1 Location: The Frrrrrrozen North

A New logic board. This is a problem with the graphics chip, or graphics memory. It's common in some past models. I've seen it on a iBook G3 and a iMac G5. The patterns may come and go, and may flicker and dither. There's not much you can do about it – it's a hardware problem and it will get worse.

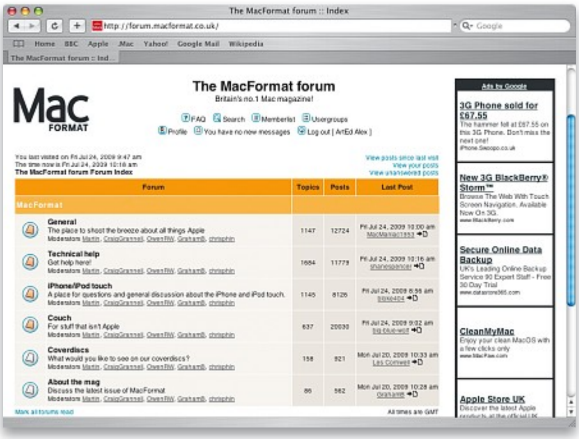
Leewave Joined: 17 Sep 2003 Posts: 1818 Location: Northern Lakes

Q My video camera enables me to view the clips on TV and I can import them onto my MacBook Pro but when the clip features camera movement the image on the MacBook is pixelated on the edges. I wondered if this was due to the import speed and if so, can it be slowed down?

wingman Joined: 12 Jun 2009 Posts: 1 Location: Devon

A Is the image pixelated within *iMovie* or on the DVD? As far as I know, you cannot slow the import. The problem could be the quality of the camera? Fast moving/panning needs a good capture rate. Your camcorder could be the culprit…

James Joined: 04 May 2005 Posts: 2914 Location: North Hertfordshire


The MacFormat forum :: Index
http://forum.macformat.co.uk/
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Home
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Apple
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Mac FORMAT
The MacFormat forum
Britain's no.1 Mac magazine!
FAQ
Search
Memberlist
Usergroups
Profile
You have no new messages
Log out
Forum
Topics
Posts
Last Post
MacFormat
General
Technical help
iPhone/iPod touch
Couch
Coverdiscs
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3G Phone sold for £67.55
New 3G BlackBerry® Storm™
Secure Online Data Backup
CleanMyMac
Apple Store UK

Join our forum and join in the fun at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk**

Because the image is everything...

PhotoRadar.com
The home of digital photography

"Its key strength is its lightweight, ultra-thin design"

THE MACBOOK AIR 2.13GHZ FULLY REVIEWED P81

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Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

The MacBook Air might not be for everyone. It's Apple's slowest laptop, has no optical drive and offers little in the way of connectivity. But while only a die-hard fan would deny these factors are drawbacks, to offer them as damning indictments of the machine misses the point.

The Air isn't intended to be your primary Mac. Instead, it's a carry-around device that supplements your main desktop or notebook well. It's incredibly slim, yet its unibody aluminium design means it doesn't compromise on strength. Its slower processors make for a battery life of up to five hours on a single charge, which is fantastic for such a super-slim machine.

The two new MacBook Airs feature a spec increase and price drop that should broaden its appeal, but if optical drives, connection ports and processor speeds are of every importance to you, and the idea of an Air as a second Mac doesn't appeal, then you should consider going for a MacBook Pro.

Check out our review of the high-end MacBook Air over on page 81.

» OUR LOGOS

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★ A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.

Mac FORMAT Winner! Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

Mac FORMAT On the disc This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>>COMPACT DV CAMERA

Cisco Flip UltraHD

£155 A compact, HD-capable DV camera for £150? Yes, please…

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Cisco
http://flipvideo.co.uk/
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619217

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 1,280x720
Dimensions: 10.8x5.6x3cm
Recording formats: H.264, MPEG-4

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Good video
- ⊕ Easy and convenient
- ⊕ Cheap for an HD camera
- ⊖ No HDMI cable in the box

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Handy, inexpensive camera but lacks zoom and stabilisation."

When writing our Group Test for issue 209, it struck us that the perfect compact DV camera would be the Flip Ultra crossed with the HD-capable MinoHD. Looks like Flip Video – now owned by Cisco – thought the same.

The UltraHD is based on the same chunky frame as the Ultra, but with a slap of MinoHD colour – we actually think the paintjob looks awkward – and the video produced is so similar to our test footage from the MinoHD that we wouldn't be surprised if the company used the same sensor. The quality of the 720p video is generally good – and looks great on the bigger, high-res viewfinder display on the rear – and though you might like to give the colours a bit of a kick in *iMovie* and some light areas can get a bit blown-out, we're impressed. Audio also seems much richer than both the Ultra and MinoHD, although audio seems to be an afterthought, plus there's no port for an external mic.

The 8GB capacity – double that of the £164 MinoHD – gets you two hours of recording. It comes with a set of NiMH rechargeable cells that charge when it's connected over USB, but you can opt for disposables.

The handy pop-out USB cable can feel precarious dangling off a laptop, say.

It's brilliantly easy to use, and the pop-out USB cable makes it easy to transfer files. It records in H.264, so you can import directly into modern versions of *iMovie*. Just as well, since the (otherwise brilliant) Mac- and PC-editing software preloaded on the camera doesn't upload HD video to YouTube, while *iMovie* will.

Christopher Phin

>>REVIEWS DESCRIPTION

Brother MFC-6890CDW

£309 Can this feature-packed A3 multifunction printer find its niche with home users?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Brother
www.brother.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619221

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 1,200x1,200dpi
Memory card: USB, CF Type 1, SD(HC), MS **Size:** 54x48.8x32.3cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ A3 printing in a compact size
- ⊕ Feature-packed
- ⊕ Great touchscreen controls
- ⊖ Workmanlike print quality

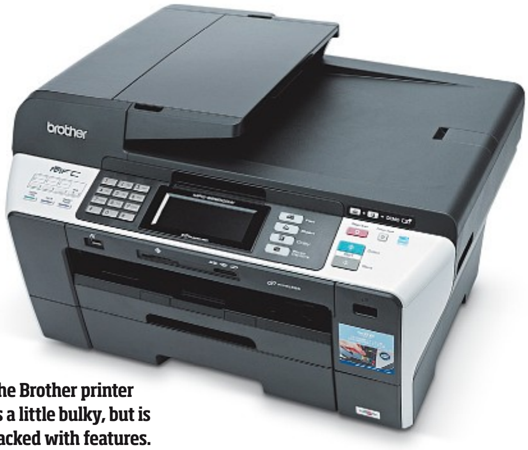
VERDICT

★★★½☆

"The feature range is welcome but let down by dull, lifeless printouts."

According to Brother, the MFC-6890CDW takes all the best features of its previous A3 inkjets and puts them in one box. It's certainly feature-packed, offering Ethernet, USB and WiFi connectivity, colour faxing directly from the device, A3 faxing and Duplex at A4 size. Unfortunately you can't receive faxes directly onto your Mac, which is annoying considering PC users enjoy this feature. It has two paper trays, both of which handle A3, while the upper tray can use photo paper, envelopes or postcards. Its 4.2-inch colour LCD touchscreen display makes it easy to print directly from a flash card, USB stick or a PictBridge-compatible camera. Its scanner is A3 too, which is a boon.

In our tests, the MFC-6890CDW performed adequately. Merits gained for clarity were lost on vibrancy. Our text test produced solid characters with little bleed and few jagged edges, but the overall finish was dull and grey. Plain-paper photo tests on A4 and A3 gave well-defined images, but with too little contrast. Using photo paper and best-quality photo settings delivered better results, although areas of solid black looked weak.



The Brother printer is a little bulky, but is packed with features.

Given its features, especially the A3 flatbed scanner, this device is not overpriced. It brings A3 printing and scanning to the home and small office, but is let down by its workmanlike print quality.

Ian Osborne

>> APPLE NOTEBOOK

Apple MacBook Air 2.13GHz

£1,349 A performance upgrade and price drop for Apple's specialist notebook…

The MacBook Air is an enigma. Its key strength is its lightweight, ultra-thin design making it ideal for carrying around with you. Yet it makes significant sacrifices to achieve this degree of style and portability.

Despite an inevitable speed boost, the Air is still the slowest machine in the Mac range. The entry-level model, with a 120GB hard drive and 2GB of RAM, has a processor running at only 1.86GHz. The high-end version boasts a 128GB solid-state drive instead of a hard drive and a 2.13GHz processor. This is the same speed as the white polycarbonate MacBook, Apple's entry-level laptop, which is £600 cheaper. The solid-state drive certainly makes its presence felt when booting the machine. Those of us more used to hard disk drives – and that's just about all of us – will find its start-up time refreshingly rapid.

The Air is built for portability rather than power, but the new one offers more under the hood.

Benchmark results

Once again, our benchmark results made for some interesting reading. The Air famously has no optical drive, but can instead share one with a computer on the same network. Alternatively, you can buy an external USB SuperDrive from Apple. In our *iTunes* encoding benchmark test, this new release performed identically to last year's 1.6GHz model, but both were marginally defeated by the MacBook, due to the faster nature of an internal drive. The new Air performed competently, though not brilliantly, in the graphics-heavy *Cinebench* and *Doom 3* tests. When first released, the Air was so slow in this respect it was almost unusable, but this new model can get by when used for gaming or rendering. Despite having the same 2.13GHz processor speed it can't match the MacBook; the Air is still a poor choice of machine if you do a lot of high-performance video work. Even so, it's great to know that it can cope if it has to.

The Air still has limited expansion ports too, with its flip-down door concealing a headphone jack, a single USB port and a video-out, which is now a MiniDisplay Port. The Air is the only Mac in Apple's current range not to support FireWire.

But for fans of the machine, these sacrifices are worth making for the Air's extreme portability, and the new model makes several improvements on its predecessors, without detracting from this key strength.

A welcome price cut brings the 1.86GHz model down to £1,149 from £1,271, and the 2.13GHz Air reviewed here is now £1,349, down from £1,761. Although WiFi is still its main means of connecting to networks or the internet, you now get a USB Ethernet adaptor in the box, should you need a wired connection. Trading power for portability and connectivity for convenience means the MacBook Air will never be a machine for everyone, but improved specs at a lower price can only be welcomed. A refreshing update for a machine that just oozes style.

Ian Osborne

> *"Despite having the same processor speed it can't match the MacBook; the Air is a poor choice for high-performance video work"*

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619251

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo **RAM:** 2GB **Solid-state disk:** 128GB **Ports:** 1x USB 2.0 **Optical drive:** No **Display:** 13.3-inch glossy widescreen **Graphics:** NVIDIA GeForce 9400M **Dimensions:** 1.94x22.7x32.5cm **Weight:** 1.36kg

PROS & CONS

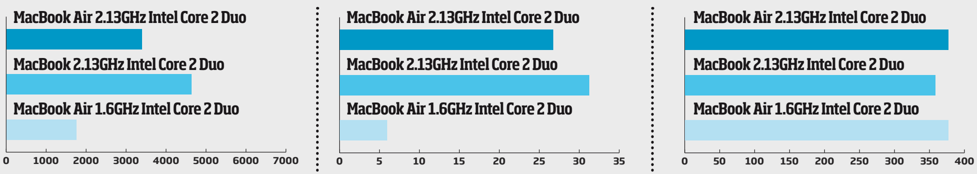
- + A welcome price drop
- + Still oozes style
- + Ethernet adaptor in the box
- − Slowest machines in the range
- − Lacks optical drive
- − Limited expansion ports

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Not a revolutionary update and still slow compared to other MacBooks, but the price drop is welcome."

>> BENCHMARKS / How do the MacBook Air stack up?



Cinebench multi-core
Measuring CPU and GPU performance, *Cinebench* reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.

Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)
Tested using *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.

iTunes encoding (seconds)
A timed test using the latest version of *iTunes*, ripping an audio CD at 128kb/sec AAC, auto sample rate, no VBR. Lower is better.

>> PORTABLE EXTERNAL HDD

Iomega eGo MAC 320GB

£75 Can this pocket drive provide enough punch to get ahead of the pack?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Iomega
www.iomega.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/618358

SPECIFICATIONS

Capacity: 320GB
Hard disk form factor: 2.5-inch
Dimensions: 8.8x12.1x1.6cm

PROS & CONS

⊕ Good value for money
⊕ Light and transportable
⊕ Solid performance
⊖ LED awkwardly placed

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"An all-round solid performer that's excellent value for money."

The new Iomega eGo drive is certainly more attractive than its predecessor, which looked like a high-tech hipflask. It's light and portable too, and offers USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and FireWire 800 connectivity, with a cable for each bundled with the drive. The USB 2.0 cable offers twin heads, so if a single USB port isn't enough to power your eGo, you can use two. It comes with a backup software suite for you to download from the internet if you're so inclined, is preformatted for Mac OS and includes Iomega's trademarked Drop Guard feature to protect it against falls.

But how does it perform? In our benchmark tests it achieved some very solid results, offering random read and write speeds of 9.9 and 13.3 MB/sec respectively under USB. Connecting through FireWire 400 saw a small but significant increase to 10.3 and 14.4 MB/sec, rising to 13.6 MB/sec random read and 15.5 MB/sec random write speeds under FireWire 800. Copying a single file of 1.08GB took 20 seconds under FireWire 800, and 40 seconds through USB 2.0. These figures won't set the world alight, but they hold their own with drives that cost more per GB.

There's little to complain about here. The LED showing when the drive is being accessed is a little awkwardly placed at the rear of the unit, but it's bright enough to see reflected on your desk. A 320GB triple-interface drive at this price is great value, and there's a 500GB model for under £100.

Ian Osborne

The new eGo drive is more attractive than the previous model.

>> EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

My Book Studio Edition II 4TB

£420 Perfect for data junkies and professionals alike, there's a lot of space in this book

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Western Digital
www.wdc.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/618319

SPECIFICATIONS

Capacity: 4TB **Connectivity:** USB 2.0, FireWire 400/800, eSATA, 4TB of storage from 2x 2TB SATA drives

PROS & CONS

⊕ Great connection options
⊕ Fast performance
⊕ Great capacity
⊖ Flimsy chassis

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Impressive performance, and connection for those who need extra space."

Western Digital's latest addition to the My Book range is this weighty double-width 4TB tome. Partitioned and pre-formatted for your Mac, the Studio Edition II is a one-stop space solution that will appeal to anyone handling large amounts of data on a regular basis. It isn't a budget drive, though, and while it offers good value, you're going to need to use that space to get the most from it.

The key concept for the Studio Edition II is that it isn't just for backup. The unit is equipped with a bevy of fast connection options; USB 2.0, FireWire 400, FireWire 800 and eSATA. This means you can connect it in the fastest way and use it as an internal hard drive.

By default, the twin 2TB hard drives have been configured as a striped array, giving the full 4TB of space, but the supplied utility makes reconfiguring the drives easy. Those looking for better security can create a 2TB mirrored array and reformat the drive. Older Macs and Windows 2000/XP can't see drives larger than 2TB, so if you're working in a multi-OS environment that may be the way to go.

The My Book series has always been pleasantly styled, and while a little larger than the standard drives, this double-drive unit continues to be easy on the eye. But the plastic casing isn't quite robust enough for our liking. Its flexibility will protect it from a few knocks, but when you've got up to 4TB of your precious data held, something a little more solid would be preferred.

Alan Dexter

The latest My Book is stylish and extremely well connected…

Mac FORMAT This Week
All your Apple needs
YAMAHA

The Yamaha PDX-30 really does sound just as good as it looks...

»iPOD DOCK

Yamaha PDX-30

£125 An excellent speaker set, but at questionable value for money

Attractive, well-made iPod dock and speaker sets aren't exactly thin on the ground, but there's always room for one more stylish gadget. This dock is available in four designs: all black, or a white body with blue, grey or pink insets.

The PDX-30 offers a clean, minimalistic look, with the only on-box controls being the volume buttons. Your iPod's click wheel or touchscreen functions are slaved to a handy, easy-to-use remote. It's fully compatible with all iPhones (Airplane Mode not required) and any iPod that charges through USB. Like most modern docks, you can also use it with an older, FireWire-charged iPod, though it won't charge while it's docked and some of the handset's controls won't work. Also, you'd better still have the universal dock adaptor that came with your device too, as there aren't any bundled with the speaker set. This is a very tight omission considering its cost.

We are very impressed with the Yamaha PDX-30's rich, meaty sound. It boasts an impressive amount of detail, though it's a little heavy on the bass. If you like your sounds very bass-driven, this speaker set will certainly be to your taste. Overall reproduction is warm, pure and rounded, and stereo separation is spot-on, which is impressive for such a compact device. It's powerful enough to saturate a decent-sized room too. If you like your music loud, you won't have any complaints here.

> *"Reproduction is warm, pure and rounded, which is impressive for such a compact device"*

But for all its impressive strengths, the PDX-30 sadly lacks versatility. There's no audio-in socket to connect a non-iPod audio device through its headphone port. You can't connect your headphones to the speaker dock, so there's no listening in private while you charge your iPod or iPhone, and although the box describes it as a 'portable player dock', it can only be powered through the mains.

The Yamaha PDX-30 isn't the most versatile speaker set on the market right now, but what it does, it does extremely well. But for the price, you could get something that offers a better feature range.

Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Yamaha
www.yamaha-uk.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/618300

SPECIFICATIONS

Speakers: 8cm full-range cone with bass-reflex port **Inputs:** iPod dock **Dimensions:** 35x10.9x12.5cm

PROS & CONS

+ Powerful, meaty speakers
+ Looks the part
− Lacks versatility
− No dock adaptors included

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A beautifully warm, rich and detailed sound, but limited features."

>> ADSL MODEM ROUTER

AVM FRITZ!Box Fon WLAN 7270

£130 A new 802.11n router that's packed with features, but lacks the one we really want…

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: AVM
www.fritzbox.eu
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/621127

SPECIFICATIONS

Modem: Supports ADSL and ADSL2+ **WiFi:** 802.11n
Ethernet: 4 x 10/100 Mb/sec ports

PROS & CONS

⊕ Packed with features
⊕ Quality traffic shaping
⊕ Easy to attach a USB device
⊖ Not simultaneous dual band

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A capable device, but not the ADSL router Mac owners are waiting for."

The FRITZ!Box Fon WLAN 7270 is packed with features, including an impressive array of telephony functions. There are two analogue ports for phones or fax machines, an integrated DECT base station supporting up to six cordless phones, and VoIP support. It even has integrated fax and answering machines.

To get you onto the internet, the FRITZ!Box has a built-in ADSL2+ modem, and can work with cable or fibre connections. It supports the 802.11n wireless standard, and you can even plug in a 3G dongle into its integrated USB port and access the net without a landline. Or, connect a USB printer or hard drive to create a network device.

In our wireless tests, read/write speeds got as high as a 4.2MB/sec average, and were over 3.5MB/sec. But it's the router's advanced traffic shaping feature that really impressed. By checking pending processes every millisecond, it ensures your surfing or email is never held up by heavy uploads or downloads.

Lie the FRITZ!Box on your desk,or mount it on your wall.

Unfortunately, this device lacks the feature Mac users are crying out for. It can't operate on the 2.4GHz and 5GHz wavebands simultaneously. This means if you want to join the network using a wireless g device, you're restricted to a congested 2.4GHz band.

Unless you're interested in its telephony functions this might not be the router you're looking for, but there's no doubt that it's an extremely high-quality piece of kit.

Ian Osborne

>> ADSL MODEM ROUTER

Linksys Dual-Band Router WRT320N

£72 Just when you thought it was safe to upgrade your router…

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Cisco
www.linksysbycisco.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/621158

SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions: 160x202x34mm,
Encryption: 128-bit WEP, 64-bit WEP, WPA, WPA2

PROS & CONS

⊕ Easy set-up and configuration
⊕ Striking design
⊖ Not simultaneous dual-band
⊖ No dual-band adaptors for Macs

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Easy installation aside, there's little on offer here outside of the norm."

The latest fad to get the marketing push from wireless network manufacturers is dual-band. While we wait for the 802.11n specification to make it over a few more legal hurdles and get ratified, the manufacturers are pushing a feature that has been a specification since day one.

The manufacturers seem to forget that 802.11n has always been specified to operate at 2.4GHz and 5GHz, although for cost reasons the first glut of consumer devices focused on 2.4GHz, while businesses enjoyed 5GHz. The WRT320N operates at both frequencies, and can improve performance because of this.

There is a crucial caveat with the dual-band on offer, though. The WRT320N doesn't operate on both bands simultaneously, so you have to define which you want your network to use. If you're looking to build a network using both frequencies, Cisco's WRT400N is the router for you. The WRT320N does support fast-wired connections, though, offering up four gigabit Ethernet ports – great if your network is wired.

Configuring the router is a cinch and you'll be up and running in minutes.

Thanks to Cisco's wizard, configuring the router is straightforward. Also, we were able to use our iBook in the garden, and the powerline extender in the spare room wasn't needed. We saw throughput go from 2.8MB/sec to 3.8MB/sec at reasonable range, although this isn't outside of what's expected from routers. It does the job and doesn't cost over the odds either. Shame Cisco doesn't produce a Mac compatible dual-band adaptor, though.

Alan Dexter

vodafone
16:52
Google Search
Email
Google Mai
Browser
Twidroid
Messaging
Dialer
Maps
Calculator
Music
Camcorder
Camera
Settings
MENU

The 'chin' at the bottom of the case that proved so divisive in the original G1 has been toned down.

>> SMARTPHONE

HTC Magic

£FREE (with contract) This is a brilliant smartphone; so why aren't we more excited?

There's no doubt in our mind that if the iPhone didn't exist, we would, right now, be in full-on gush mode. And the fact that the Magic (the second phone from HTC running the Google-stewarded Android OS) is not the best phone ever invented by mankind is testament to the iPhone's brilliance.

The hardware itself is lovely. Lighter than the iPhone, it feels solid, and has a good balance of sleekness and charm. The few hardware buttons are responsive, although even after weeks of use we occasionally dithered trying to remember which we had to press for what function. The trackball, though rendered slightly pointless by the touchscreen display, feels sturdy.

The screen is bright and crisp, but we have reservations about its responsiveness. While the iPhone needs the merest brush, the Magic was more sluggish, especially at the edges. However, the software keyboard is as good as the iPhone's (unresponsiveness aside) and while it doesn't feel as fluid, nice touches, such as offering multiple alternatives for mistyped words, are welcome (the iPhone only offers one suggestion).

The 3.2 megapixel, flashless camera is underwhelming, and HTC hasn't used a standard 3.5mm jack for the headphones.

> *"Integration with Google services is superb, but you'll struggle to integrate with other services"*

The open-source Android OS is generally good. It sometimes feels sluggish on the Magic, and there's no doubt that the experience isn't quite as polished as with the iPhone. (The browser feels surprisingly old-fashioned, although it renders pages well.) You can add apps from its Market; the choice is slim at the moment, but it's bound to grow.

Integration with Google services – push Gmail, contacts, calendars – is superb, but you'll struggle to integrate other services; there's no direct way to sync with *iCal* or *Address Book*. Adding music is done manually.

It's cheaper than the iPhone and about as capable. Mac users will get a smoother experience with Apple's smartphone, but this platform provides credible competition.

Christopher Phin

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: HTC
www.vodafone.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/621131

SPECIFICATIONS

Network: Quad-band, HSDPA
Camera: 3.2 megapixel **Other:** GPS, G-sensor, digital compass

PROS & CONS

- + Rich, flexible OS
- + Smart, solid hardware
- − Hard to sync with other services
- − Poor camera and no 3.5mm jack

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A great smartphone, though integration with the Mac is not great."

>>EXTERNAL LAPTOP BATTERY

Sanho HyperMac 222Wh

$499 (£302) An external battery for when you need a little extra portable power…

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Sanho Corporation
www.hyperdrive.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619294

SPECIFICATIONS

Capacity: 222-watt-hour
Dimensions: 25.6x15x3.4cm
Weight: 4.7lbs

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Extra power for your laptop
- ⊕ Charges internal batteries
- ⊕ Can power your iPhone
- ⊖ High-capacity models are heavy

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"An excellent device, but bear weight and volume in mind when buying."

HyperMac is an external battery pack for all Apple laptops. It's available in four capacities, ranging from 60Wh to the most powerful 222Wh, which we tested here. For comparison, the MacBook Air's battery is 37Wh.

The device comes supplied with MagSafe cables for connecting to a MacBook, MacBook Pro or MacBook Air, and offers a USB port so you can also use it to run your iPod, iPhone or other USB-powered device. HyperMac charges your internal battery as well as powering your notebook, and is expected to last around 1,000 charges before wearing out.

We tested the 222Wh model with a regular 13-inch MacBook. According to the Battery Life Chart at **www.tinyurl.com/mspavz**, it should last four times as long as this MacBook's internal battery, or 25 hours of web-surfing and document-editing with the screen brightness set to 50% and the power setting on Better Battery Life. In our slightly more demanding tests, with a much brighter screen, the power setting on Normal and performing activities that make the hard drive spin, we got nine hours 50 minutes, which is far from shabby. And, we could have squeezed out a more hours using 'Better Battery Life'.

Extend your laptop's mobile life with this excellent external battery.

Our only criticism is the version we tested is the size of a large paperback and almost as heavy as the MacBook we tested it on. Do invest in a HyperMac, but when choosing which model to buy, bear in mind the trade-off between capacity and bulk.

Ian Osborne

>>CONTACT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

CardScan Executive for Mac

£200 The high-tech way to organise your contacts' business cards

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: CardScan
www.cardscan.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619302

SPECIFICATIONS

Speed: Up to 20 cards per minute
Dimensions: 19x14x6.5cm
Weight: 0.8kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Great OCR text recognition
- ⊕ Integrates with Address Book
- ⊖ Expensive
- ⊖ Leopard only

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"An excellent product that's feature-packed and easy to use, but pricey."

CardScan Executive for Mac is a micro-scanner and software package designed to manage your contacts. It's for scanning and sorting business cards, but it can also process contact details from websites, emails and other electronic files.

Cards are scanned into a software database, not only as an image, but also as text using OCR technology. This can be edited to correct inevitable but infrequent mistakes. In our tests CardScan handled most business cards extremely well but it did struggle with certain white-on-black designs as well as non-Roman text.

URLs can be launched and emails sent directly from the **Contacts** window, and you can even pinpoint addresses on Google Maps. Also, notes can be added, you can organise your contacts into categories and export them as vCards, but best of all, you can copy contacts to *Address Book* by exporting, syncing or drag-and-dropping. There's a **Cover Flow** viewing option, which is useful if you have lots of cards. You can flip the card over and scan its reverse as well, associating both sides with the same contact.

Scan your business cards, and turn them into Address Book contacts…

CardScan Executive for Mac is spectacularly easy to use. Conformity to Mac protocols makes it very instinctive. You can familiarise yourself with all its features within minutes, without ever looking at an instruction manual. At £200 it's way too expensive, but overall it's a very capable package that's a real boon if your desk drawer's full of other people's business cards.

Ian Osborne

>> SATELLITE RECEIVER AND PVR SOFTWARE

Elgato EyeTV Sat

£180 Receive and record freesat television channels on your Mac, with a little work …

As small and simple as the EyeTV Sat is, it can still pack a punch.

Back in the good old days, all you had to do to get television was stick up an aerial and plug it into your TV set. Now there's a world of choice, ranging from old-style analogue television and digital Freeview through to cable TV and BSkyB.

In that mix is freesat, which is basically Freeview via satellite but with a slightly different channel line-up. As the name suggests, freesat is free. It can also get a signal almost anywhere and has HD channels. However, recording TV on your Mac directly is something that has only been possible with Freeview and analogue, not freesat – until now.

At just 14cm long and 10cm wide, Elgato's EyeTV Sat is a simple affair compared with other set-top boxes. It has a power plug, a connector for a satellite lead, a USB output and a CI slot, which is irrelevant to the majority of users but useful for those who want to watch subscription adult and overseas channels. freesat and Elgato say you should be able to use any satellite dish that can receive UK channels including BSkyB's, so for our review we used the lead that normally runs from a communal satellite dish to a SkyHD+ box to provide a signal.

> *"Recording TV on your Mac directly has only been possible with Freeview and analogue, not freesat – until now…"*

Strong signal

Configuration is simple: just drag and drop EyeTV from the CD to install it; then launch it and let the setup assistant tune in the channels. After a slightly baffling moment when we were given a highly technical choice of satellites, we were able to get EyeTV to scan for channels. Since freesat uses a proprietary EPG system that EyeTV can't process, the EyeTV Sat also comes with a one-year subscription to tvtv.co.uk to generate programme listings. The software was able to match up most channel names with tvtv.co.uk and give us an EPG, once we'd downloaded the relevant information off the internet (although the slightly patchy tvtv.co.uk didn't have listings for all the channels).

The *EyeTV* recording software is second-to-none. It's easy to use, records in the native MPEG2/H.264 format, can export to iPods, iPhones and Apple TV at appropriate resolutions. It also has sophisticated PVR features such as smart guides for automatically recording programmes that match certain rules. It can even auto-start a shutdown Mac when a programme is due to begin.

However, the PVR software isn't the problem. Although Elgato says EyeTV's auto-tune should find all freesat channels very easily unless there's bad weather, we had significant problems. After auto-tuning, we could get BBC1, ITV1, Five and a selection of digital channels, including BBC1 HD in fantastic quality. But, to get BBC3 and BBC4 we needed to run auto-tune again after 7pm when the channels transmit. ITV1 HD is trickier still since it is 'frequency agile'. You may have to retune the EyeTV Sat software each time you want to watch ITV1.

However, to get ITV2/3/4, Channel 4 and E4/More4/Film4, we had to use the Manually Add Channel option and input no less than four separate transponder frequencies gleaned from www.lyngsat.com/28east.html – needless to say, people might not know how to do this. We're unsure why this happened, since the channels came through clearly once we added them. Once configured, the EyeTV Sat is a great bit of kit. But it's far harder to use than it should be at the moment thanks to those tuning issues.

Rob Buckley

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Elgato
www.elgato.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619326

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: G4, G5 or Intel processor **RAM:** 512MB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later **Other:** built-in USB 2.0 port **Requirements:** satellite dish with a digital or universal LNB, internet connection to download listings

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Excellent recording software
- ⊕ Includes subscription to an EPG
- ⊕ Smaller than most set-top boxes
- ⊕ Gets and records HD channels
- ⊖ Hard to tune properly
- ⊖ Requires retuning for ITV1 HD

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Although the EyeTV Sat's PVR software is superb, getting the channels you want is far from easy."

EyeTV Sat gives you access to free-to-view high-definition channels such as BBC HD and ITV1 HD.

EyeTV – 35 BBC HD
BBC Preview
BBC HD
35
BBC HD
00:08:46
eyetv

01

02

03

04

>> WIRELESS MOUSE

Macally mGlide

£25 www.macally.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619206

01 Macally's latest rodent is beautifully styled in brilliant white. It's ultra-slim so ideal for travellers, and its miniature wireless dongle fits inside the mouse when not in use, so you're less likely to lose it in your bag. Inserting the dongle into this housing also switches off the mouse to save battery life.

As well as being responsive, the mGlide is comfortable. It might take a little getting used to due to its low-profile form factor, but after an hour or two you wouldn't want it any other way.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A lovely travel mouse that feels at home on the desktop as well as on the move."

>> CARD READER

LaCie DataShare

£10 www.lacie.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619149

02 As the cost of SD cards tumble and capacities rise, it's a great time to replace old ones. But what can you do with the retired Flash cards? LaCie's DataShare can give them a new lease of life as a USB drive. There's a model for standard SD cards and one for MicroSDs that slot together when not in use.

Fitting a spare card is easy, but they can be tricky to remove. It's compatible with all SD cards, including SDHC, and comes with a short USB cable for when it's too meaty to fit the required port.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A useful device, but nothing you couldn't do with any other SD card reader that's available."

>> BACKUP SOLUTION

Clickfree Traveler

£80 http://clickfree.com/
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619168

03 This credit card-sized Flash memory with integrated USB cable is available in 16, 32 and 64GB sizes. Simply plug it in and it automatically launches an incremental backup.

Clickfree Traveler is an easy way to back up *Office* documents, music, videos and more. It covers over 400 file types, but you can restrict what it does and doesn't copy to save memory. It's ideal for safeguarding your work while away from your usual backup solution, but the price isn't as wallet-friendly as its form factor.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"The Clickfree Traveler is an excellent means of backing up your work on the fly."

>> CLEANING PACK

Key-Pad Officebox

£10 www.tradekey.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/619158

04 If your screen is marred by greasy fingermarks or your keyboard is covered in crumbs and grime, you'll need a cleaning kit. For a tenner, Kay-Pad's Officebox offers a 50ml bottle of spray-on cleaning fluid and a handy sponge to wipe it off, replete with a screen-friendly 'micro-fibre cloth' on one side and soft spongy ridges to get in between the keys on the other.

It isn't the cheapest solution, but the quality is high. It does a great job of cleaning your kit without smearing.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A quality screen and keyboard cleaner, and a very handy kit to have around."

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WORLD OF TECH

21 guilty pleasures for geeks

Things you don't even admit on anonymous forums

It's OK, you're in safe company. We know you didn't really buy that gadget because it could interface seamlessly with the cloud, or because it offers the best range of features for Small to Medium Enterprises, or even because it has the fastest processor this side of a supercomputer. You just like touching its rubbery buttons and the fact that it goes 'ping'.

You're not alone. In fact, here are some other guilty pleasures that we'd like to share with you...

1. The iPhone Unlock swipe

You've used your iPhone every day since you bought it, but even all those apps you've downloaded can't compare to the first thing you do with your iPhone every day: gently, caressingly, swiping your finger from left to right across the Unlock button. It's the nearest you ever get to foreplay. And you love it.

2. Seeing how juiced up your PC is in Vista / Windows 7

You know you've got a kicking system, and how. Yet every day you dive into the Welcome Centre just to see it all by the numbers. "Windows-capable? Don't make us laugh. Just look at the stats I'm getting," you say (probably to yourself).

3. The Macintosh bong

A cross-between a call to action, geek whimsy and the harbinger of PC doom, the Macintosh bong is one of the great geek pleasures. It confirms your status as a man (or woman) who has thunk different, sticking it to the (PC) man with your non-conformist ways. Sometimes you stick it through your kick-ass speakers. Sometimes you simply soak it up on headphones. But the best is when you Zap the PRAM by holding down the Command-Option-P-R keys so your Mac starts up again, and again.... and again. Or you could just watch the Bong video on YouTube.

4. Looking at your blog's user stats

OK, so your mum is the only person who looks at your blog and that's only because you set her homepage to it last time your configured her PC, but still. Every day you pile on to Statcounter, Technorati or Google Analytics just to see how well you're doing. What, you're supposed to get them to ignore your own IP address? Where's the pleasure in that?

5. Waggling the analogue sticks on your PS3

Whether you're fragging your way through FPS mayhem, careering around a virtual racetrack or lolloping around a platformer, the best bit about it all is the feel of those rubbery pointy things that squirm beneath your thumbs. You especially love it when you waggle so far that the joystick reaches its softly clunking stop. It's even better when you send it yawing back the other way.

6. Cranking up your home cinema system for the THX OMMMMMmmmmm

200W per channel amplifier? Check. Seven surround sound speakers and two active subs? Check. The neighbours are out? Stuff it, who cares! That latest Blu-ray blockbuster may shift more CGI pixels than a supercomputer in a Pixar render-farm, but hey – just listen to this. Everyone, come on, OMMMMMmmmmm. It's what war would sound like if Hare Krishna had an army.

7. Smashing the ball in Wii Tennis

OK, so you could just wave your arm around lazily while lying semi-comatose on your sofa. But surely it's much (much) better to lift the Wii-mote right above your head, violently jerk your arm down and then listen out for that thundering whack as your virtual racket hits the virtual ball. You're rewarded with the shimmering, heady sight of the ball screaming banshee-like across the net. Bingo, one set-winning ace in the bag and the shame-faced joy of seeing your four-year-old nemesis crumple, crying, to the floor. Guilty pleasure? Oh yes.

8. Deliberately trying to confuse your sat nav

You've plotted the fastest route from here to Maplin, only now you're just going to take a teensy detour. "Perform a legal U-turn", TessTess says politely. "Perform a legal U-turn", she says again, tension rising slightly. "I SAID, PERFORM A LEGAL U-TURN! What's the matter, can't you tell your left from right, or something?" TessTess, of course, has failed to spot that you're driving a DeLorean. And this is now 1955...

There's more! Read the full article at www.techradar.com/565083

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Come on, admit it: you love swiping your iPhone screen

Zoom

>>3D SOFTWARE

DAZ Studio 3 Advanced

$150 (£91) This turbo-charged edition of the 3D graphics app might be too powerful for its own good

CONTACTS

Developer: DAZ Productions
www.daz3d.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/618408

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: 1.25GHz PowerPC or Intel **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4 or later

PROS & CONS

- + Better and faster 3D renders
- + Core tasks are easy to perform
- + Simple animation system
- − Exclusive tools need expertise
- − Short on help and tutorials
- − Not much bundled content

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Experienced artists will love the extra control, but newcomers should stick with the free edition."

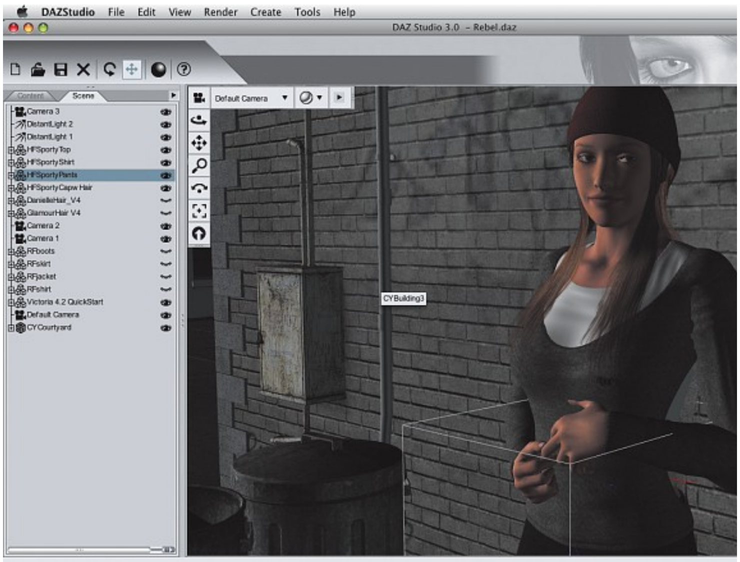
Many people who've explored the field of 3D graphics will have come across *DAZ Studio*. Available to download for free, it's the simplest entry point into a distinct area in the 3D community, where artists create models for anyone to use in their own images and animations. Like its rival, Smith Micro's *Poser*, *DAZ Studio* enables you to bring characters, clothing, props and more into your 3D scene, then position and pose them before rendering a final image.

With the release of *DAZ Studio 3*, DAZ has opted to offer this advanced edition alongside the standard free version. The benefits of paying for *DAZ Studio* for the first time are not immediately obvious when you run the program: *DAZ Studio Advanced* looks the same as its free sibling, the initial steps in creating a scene are identical. Both editions offer improvements in their core functions.

Detail and control

The viewport better shows the range of lights as you position them, for example, taking some of the trial and error out of staging scenes. Rendering the final image yields better and faster results, with the system taking advantage of multi-core processors if your Mac has one. Achieving good renders takes practice, but *DAZ Studio 3* produces highly polished still images.

This render by experienced DAZ Studio user joelgecko shows the results you can achieve if you invest the time.



DAZ Studio 3 Advanced enables you to assemble complete scenes to render as images or animate.

It's also possible to animate scenes, although it's not *DAZ Studio*'s main focus. The plug-in *aniMate* was introduced in 2008. *DAZ Studio 3* now includes a *Lite* version that works along the same lines. As with characters and props, you can buy ready-made animations to apply to your characters, then re-order snippets of movement to create original sequences.

> *"DAZ has assembled a set of tools designed to appeal to the dedicated user who craves precise control over their renders…"*

Although you've spent hours assembling scenes, creating renders and perhaps doing some animation, all of this functionality is available in the free edition. That's when you realise that the *Advanced* suffix for the paid edition is well-chosen: DAZ has assembled a set of bonus tools designed to appeal to the dedicated *DAZ Studio* user who craves precise control over every aspect of their renders. The Figure Mixer, for example, enables you to blend parts of two figures together to create distinctive new characters. This is easy to use in practice, with *DAZ Studio*'s usual slider controls enabling you to set the balance between the two shapes.

There's also a lot of emphasis on shaders – components that describe the look and behaviour of a particular surface, for example how shiny a metal is. Some complex shaders are included, and you can also create your own. The Shader Mixer that helps you do this achieves its results through a network of nodes that is instantly familiar to anyone who's used professional software.

In the mix

The Shader Mixer is typical of the tools that are exclusive to *DAZ Studio's Advanced* edition: liberating in experienced hands, but daunting for newcomers. They turn *DAZ Studio* into a powerful tool to create high-quality images. If you're new to this area of 3D, however, the free edition represents enough of a learning curve for the time being.

Richard Hill

>> WEB BROWSER

Apple Safari 4.0.2

£FREE Apple's web browser takes another three steps forward – and two-and-a-half steps back

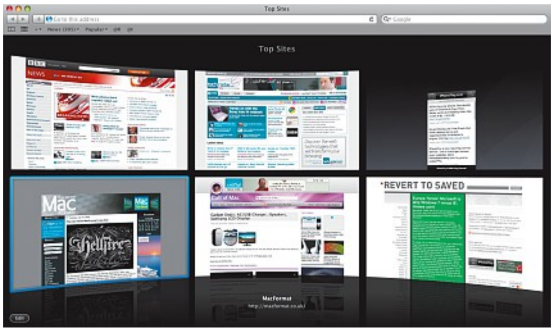
Apple claims *Safari 4* is feature-packed and 'the world's fastest browser.' In reality, it's business as usual. *Safari* remains as elegant and efficient as ever, but maddeningly omits features that could make your browsing even better.

The good news is *Safari 4* is fast, often leaving the competition trailing. But new features are hit and miss. The web developer tools are excellent, and while the revised search and address fields don't match *Firefox*'s equivalents, they draw on your browsing history to somewhat accurately complete URLs and terms. Elsewhere, *Safari* plays catch-up and attempts to wow with gloss. Its Top Sites page nicks *Opera*'s Speed Dial, but presents favourite sites in a 3D view, also enabling access to *Safari*'s full history search, which filters your browsing history to pages matching keyword searches. Annoyingly, results are presented in Cover Flow (often with blank placeholders), but a split view with a list is accessible via the History page.

Cover Flow also makes a pointless appearance in the Bookmarks page, but Apple, for some unknown reason, hasn't seen fit to enable bookmark tagging. Nor does *Safari* offer *iTunes*-style smart bookmarks folders. Also, the browser's ad- and content-blocking remains pathetic, and the new progress indicator no longer indicates how much of a page has loaded.

Despite these niggles, we still recommend it. There is excellent Mac integration, and is ideal if you just want a fast, efficient browser.

Craig Grannell



Top Sites page gives access to favourite sites and a full history search.

CONTACTS

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/safari
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/618337

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, Mac OS X 10.5.7 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Good performance
- ⊕ Excellent developer tools
- ⊖ Bookmarking still too basic
- ⊖ Pathetic ad-blocking

VERDICT

★★★★☆

>> WEB BROWSER

Mozilla Firefox 3.5

£FREE The world's second-biggest browser updates, but there's not much new to see

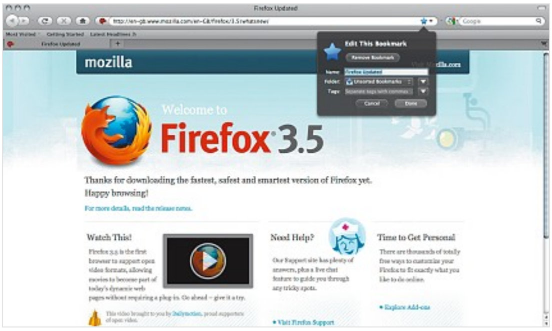
Of the dozens of available web browsers, only *Firefox* has truly challenged *Internet Explorer*'s dominance. *Version 3.5*'s now arrived, billed as the 'fastest, safest and smartest *Firefox* yet'. What it isn't, sadly, is an upgrade that befits a 0.5 jump in version number, since the changes are relatively minor.

In fact, most *Firefox 3.5* updates centre on supporting cutting-edge web technologies. While a laudable goal, uptake from designers isn't likely until *Internet Explorer* gets on board. For end users, pickings are slimmer; support for Ogg video and audio, private browsing, improved privacy controls, faster performance and location-aware browsing.

These features all work well enough, but they don't excite. Luckily, *Firefox* doesn't break (and often improves) major plusses from the 3.0 release: the 'awesome bar' that easily beats *Safari*'s address bar; bookmark tagging and keyword shortcuts; simple UI reskinning and plug-in support.

Unfortunately, *Firefox*'s biggest Mac-related problem remains. It's just not a good Mac OS X citizen, ignoring Mac conventions and technologies, including the built-in system spell-checker and keychain. Even the UI is problematic, looking like a standard Mac app, but not always behaving like one. If these shortcomings were addressed, we'd bestow a *MacFormat* Choice Award on *Firefox*. As it is, it's a good browser to install, and great for plug-in fans, but it's still too alien to be a perfect *Safari* replacement.

Craig Grannell



Thanks for downloading the fastest, safest and smartest version of Firefox yet.
Happy browsing!

Safari would do well to ape Firefox's address bar and bookmarking.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Mozilla Foundation
http://mozilla-europe.org/en/
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/618372

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel, G3, G4 or G5 processor **RAM:** 128MB RAM
OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Extensible and feature-packed
- ⊕ First-rate address bar and tags
- ⊖ Poor Mac OS X integration
- ⊖ Can be slow after extended use

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Firefox remains an alternative to Safari, but doesn't offer much new."

>> GEOTAGGING AND ANNOTATION TOOL

Early Innovations Photolinker 2.0

$50 (£31) A cool interactive geotagging tool to help you track and annotate your images

CONTACTS

Developer: Early Innovations
www.earlyinnovations.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/616274

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5

PROS & CONS

- + Easy to manually load locations
- + Customisable annotation fields
- − Some maps US territories only
- − Unnecessary for iPhoto '09 users

VERDICT

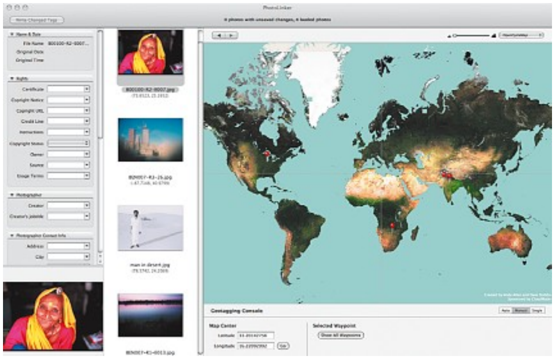
★★★½☆

"A great geotagging and annotation package if you don't have iPhoto Places."

Geotagging is all the rage in the world of photography. Punching a virtual pin into world maps has suddenly become essential, whether you're just uploading your holiday snaps to photo-sharing sites such as Flickr or a seasoned pro selling your wares through stock libraries. Camera manufacturers have started to introduce GPS tagging to image files, and it won't be long before it's an established norm.

Photolinker 2.0 is a neat piece of software that pulls the GPS data from your files and locates them on its world maps. While there's a small variety of good maps to choose from, you won't be able to tap into any of the favourites such as Google Earth, and some of the detailed satellite views (which are the most fun to look at) are restricted to US territories. If you're using a camera without a GPS marking function, entering locations manually is easy.

Photolinker 2.0 not only offers good geotagging features but also boasts sophisticated annotation functionality that claims to take the drudgery out of adding your keywords and metadata. It's doubtful anything could do that, but it does make it fairly painless nonetheless. It's customisable and easy to use, but no better than other software a keen photographer will already have such as Adobe *Bridge* or *Lightroom 2.0*.



Manually assigning locations to images that haven't been tagged is easy.

While this package is pretty slick, there are obvious comparisons to be made with *iPhoto*'s Places, and it's difficult to see a compelling reason to spend the extra cash.

Ben Brain

>> UPnP MEDIA SERVER SOFTWARE

Yazsoft Playback

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£10 Make media streaming easy using your games consoles

CONTACTS

Developer: Yazsoft
www.yazsoft.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/616294

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5 **Network:** Gigabit for HD **Consoles:** PS3, Xbox 360, any UPnP compatible device

PROS & CONS

- + Easy Xbox 360 streaming
- + Good features and controls
- + A bargain
- − Limited by consoles' abilities

VERDICT

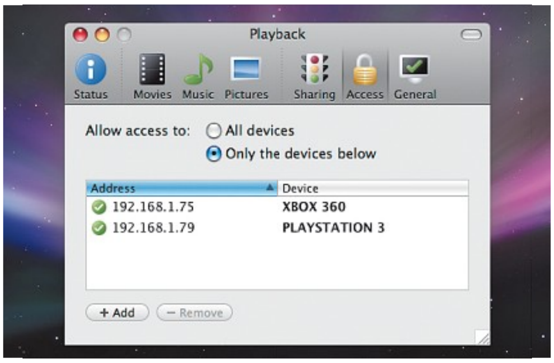
★★★★★

"Media streaming for the masses with lots of features and options."

Streaming media around your house can be complicated and expensive, but a lot of people have hardware that can do it. Now all you need is need the right software.

Playback is a UPnP (Universal Plug n Play) server designed specifically for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360, both of which have impressive media capabilities, though it supports other UPnP-compatible receivers too. There's integration with *iTunes, iPhoto,* Adobe *Lightroom* and *Aperture,* as well as individual folder browsing, all of which proved virtually seamless in our tests. It also sports bandwidth limiting to avoid slowing your network, the use of Spotlight searches and Quick Look previews, an access control list and integration with *Growl*'s notification software.

So far, so good, but it's *Playback*'s price and simplicity that really make it stand out. It costs £9.85 for three licenses, which trounces the competition. Nullriver's *Connect360* and *MediaLink* do the same job, but although they don't have any features that trump *Playback*, they cost a total of £25. *Rivet 2.2* shares some features with *Playback* but costs £12.



Allow access to: ○ All devices
● Only the devices below

Address	Device
✓ 192.168.1.75	XBOX 360
✓ 192.168.1.79	PLAYSTATION 3

Stream media round your home from games consoles with Playback.

We had some problems in testing, but this was due to the consoles. While both consoles support most videos, MKV files and protected *iTunes* content won't work. The PS3 struggled with some HD content but the Xbox managed, despite being on identical network connections. The Xbox also won't play songs purchased from the iTunes Store, despite supporting AAC.

Matthew Bolton

>> BACKUP SOFTWARE

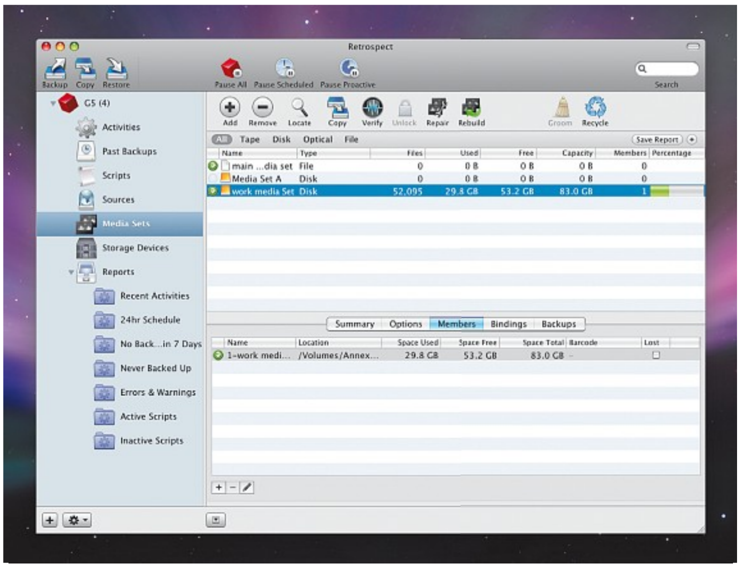
EMC Retrospect 8.1

£85 The original software backup king returns to reclaim its crown

Retrospect, once the last words in backup for the Mac, has been pretty much out of the picture for years. Thanks to problems in the early days of Mac OS X, the once all-powerful utility fell into disfavour. Fast-forward to 2009 and most Mac users reach for *Time Machine*, *SuperDuper* or other tools for their backup needs. So what does EMC *Retrospect 8.1* offer that could make someone switch?

Retrospect is not simply a solo backup program, it is a tool for safeguarding data from multiple networked machines to multiple storage destinations, from hard disks and DVDs to all manner of tape backup media. This is what's called enterprise-level backup, which is good enough (and then some) for IT departments managing large corporate networks. All very impressive, but is it any use to the rest of us?

Well, if you have more than a single Mac to back up, want to schedule, manage and perform the process intelligently across networks and perhaps use multiple media types including tape, then *Retrospect* is still top of the list.


Retrospect
Backup
Copy
Restore
Pause All
Pause Scheduled
Pause Proactive
Search
G5 (4)
Activities
Past Backups
Scripts
Sources
Media Sets
Storage Devices
Reports
Recent Activities
24hr Schedule
No Back...in 7 Days
Never Backed Up
Errors & Warnings
Active Scripts
Inactive Scripts
Add
Remove
Locate
Copy
Verify
Unlock
Repair
Rebuild
Groom
Recycle
All
Tape
Disk
Optical
File
Save Report
Summary
Options
Members
Bindings
Backups

Name	Type	Files	Used	Free	Capacity	Members	Percentage
main ...dia set	File	0	0 B	0 B	0 B	0	
Media Set A	Disk	0	0 B	0 B	0 B	0	
work media Set	Disk	52,095	29.8 GB	53.2 GB	83.0 GB	1	

Name	Location	Space Used	Space Free	Space Total	Barcode	Lost
1-work medi...	/Volumes/Annex...	29.8 GB	53.2 GB	83.0 GB	-	☐

Media sets can be set up and inspected, organised, verified, repaired and rebuilt with ease.

> *"It is still daunting to new users, but if you need more control, scripts, and so on, then the reborn Retrospect is the business"*

If you've used *Retrospect* in the past you'll notice some terminology shifts, but nothing too jarring. This is all documented in the Getting Started PDF, a worthwhile document for new and old users alike.

Backup storage

When choosing locations for media sets (where backup data is to be stored), we found that *Retrospect* wouldn't allow us to use our USB-connected backup hard drive, although it would let us include it as a source to be backed up. This invalidated one media type during our tests, but it was able to work with others.

Backing up a client doesn't put noticeable strain on its performance. Good practise dictates that backups happen when the Mac isn't used, but *Retrospect* can take this in its stride. The scanning process where it builds its initial picture of everything on the source volume is lengthy, so don't expect the immediacy of a *Finder*-style drag and drop. The software prefers to know about everything first and then check items off as it goes, and this kind of diligence takes time.

Restoring data from a media set is as simple as it has been in the past, with a slightly cleaner feel to the interface and process. You can browse a media set directly, trawling through a hierarchical list view of the complete volume, or use search features to filter for the items you need and have them restored directly.

Retrospect remains relatively complex for new users; this is serious software, so you need to be prepared to put time into setting it up. The interface presents things clearly; it is just the disparate nature of juggling scripts, sources, media sets and storage devices that can befuddle.

The bottom line

Retrospect is back, and it is more capable than ever. It is still daunting to new users, and it is overkill if you have a single Mac to back up or whose needs are met by *Time Machine*'s hands-free approach. But if you need more control, scripts, and so on, the reborn *Retrospect* is the business.

Caspian Kidd

CONTACTS

Developer: EMC

www.retrospect.com

Latest price on TechRadar

www.techradar.com/616303

REQUIREMENTS

Retrospect Engine: Dual G4, G5 or Intel CPU, 2GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or 10.5.5 **Retrospect Clients:** G3, G4, G5 or Intel CPU, Mac OS X 10.3.9, 10.4.11 or 10.5.5

PROS & CONS

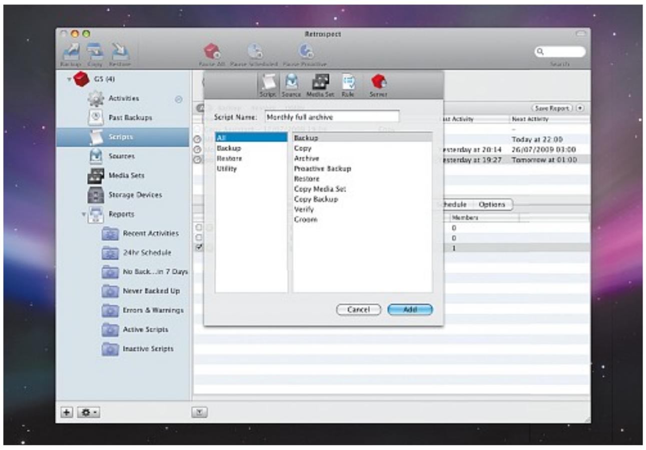
- ⊕ High powered
- ⊕ Scripted automation of routines
- ⊕ Detailed reporting
- ⊕ Handles Macs, PCs and Linux
- ⊖ Still fairly daunting to new users
- ⊖ Backups can be lengthy

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Retrospect 8.1 requires dedication to use well, but it is a superb backup and archive solution."

Creating scripts isn't hard once you understand all the different options. Reach for the manual and plan things.


Retrospect
Backup
Copy
Restore
Pause All
Pause Scheduled
Pause Proactive
Search
G5 (4)
Activities
Past Backups
Scripts
Sources
Media Sets
Storage Devices
Reports
Recent Activities
24hr Schedule
No Back...in 7 Days
Never Backed Up
Errors & Warnings
Active Scripts
Inactive Scripts
Script
Source
Media Set
Rule
Server
All
Backup
Restore
Utility
Backup
Copy
Archive
Proactive Backup
Restore
Copy Media Set
Copy Backup
Verify
Groom
Cancel
Add
Save Report
Schedule
Options
Members

Script Name: Monthly full archive

Last Activity	Next Activity
	-
	Today at 22:00
Yesterday at 20:14	26/07/2009 03:00
Yesterday at 19:27	Tomorrow at 01:00

>> PERSONAL FINANCE TOOL

Synium Software iFinance 3.0.2

$29 (£18) iFinance can do anything with money – except make it for you

CONTACTS

Developer: Synium Software
www.synium.de
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/617456

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5

PROS & CONS

- + Good range of diagram options
- + Handy budgeting features
- + Comprehensive help (PDF)
- − Occasionally confusing interface

VERDICT

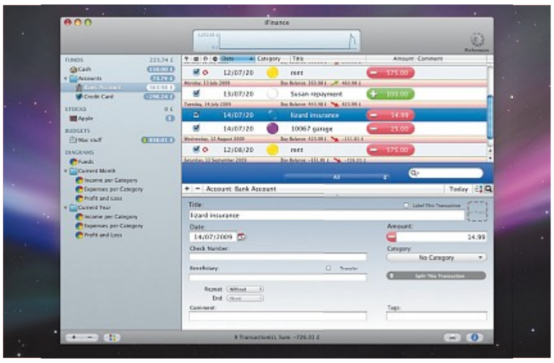
★★★★☆

"iFinance makes financial record-keeping and budgeting simple."

Most personal finance tools seem aimed at the high-net-worth individual, or at least the financially sophisticated one. At first glance *iFinance* is no different, with its support for multiple currencies, share price tracking, and so on. But amid these features is a straightforward tool for recording your financial affairs and forecasting them across several bank or credit card accounts.

It's easy to set up regular recurring transactions like mortgage payments out and salaries in to get an estimate of how flush you won't be in a month or a year. A helpful Budget feature lets you see how much of an allocated sum you've spent and how much remains. You can use it to track your monthly grocery bills or for longer-term spending like work on your home, and you can be warned when you're running out of budget.

Dutiful record-keepers will appreciate CSV import and export to keep *iFinance* in sync with spreadsheets and online bank accounts.



iFinance's Budget feature tells how much money you have left.

iFinance's interface is not always instantly intuitive. For example, it can be a little awkward to ensure all expenditure is properly allocated to a budget, and typically of such apps, it suffers from a mild case of feature bloat; few users will require monthly profit-and-loss figures. But whether you need a way to manage your fortune or just reassurance that your *iTunes* habit isn't getting out of hand, *iFinance* does an efficient job.

Users of versions 1 and 2 should note that upgrades are free.

Barnaby Page

>> TOOLBAR UTILITY

Dockland Software Fantasktik 1.4

$10 (£6) Too many documents open? Fantasktik helps you find the one you need

CONTACTS

Developer: Dockland Software
www.docklandsoft.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/617491

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5

PROS & CONS

- + Swiftly jumps between docs
- + Multiple documents previews
- − Intrusive toolbar and windows
- − The Dock will do just fine

VERDICT

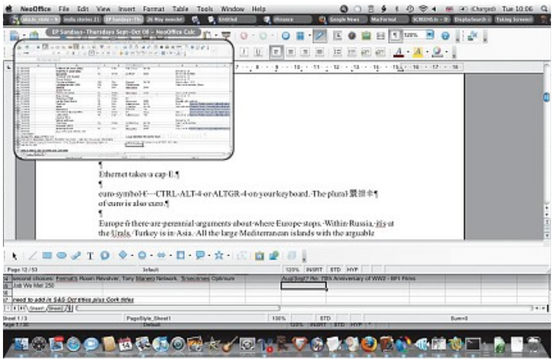
★★★☆☆

"Fantasktik helps you move between docs, but few will really need it."

Fantasktik adds a new toolbar to the top or bottom of your screen, showing open applications and documents. It's easy to manage via *System Preferences*, and both its behaviour and appearance are as configurable as anyone could want. The question is whether this utility is actually useful.

Fantasktik comes into its own when you have lots of documents open in one application. Rather than selecting the app in the Dock and then finding the document in the Window menu, you can get a quick preview of any open document with a single click and make it active with another, or see previews of all an app's open documents at once. You can also hide and quit apps, and lots more.

The configurability is nice too. For example, you can auto-hide *Fantasktik* after a designated number of seconds, stop it displaying certain apps, and hide it when specified apps are active. And the taskbar doesn't consume much screen space, though sometimes – as with too many utilities – it can sidle in and out of view.



Fantasktik previews all windows from a specified application only.

One feature we would like to see in a future version, which would increase *Fantasktik*'s contribution to productivity, is an option to display recently-used documents as well as those currently open. In the meantime, it could be handy for users who regularly have many files open and are constantly moving from one document to another. The rest of us will find *Fantasktik* unnecessary and a little fiddly.

Barnaby Page

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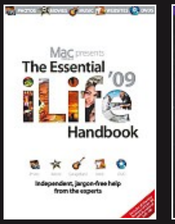

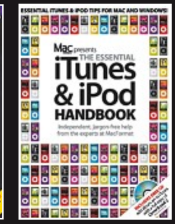

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Digital Camera Photographer of the Year 2009

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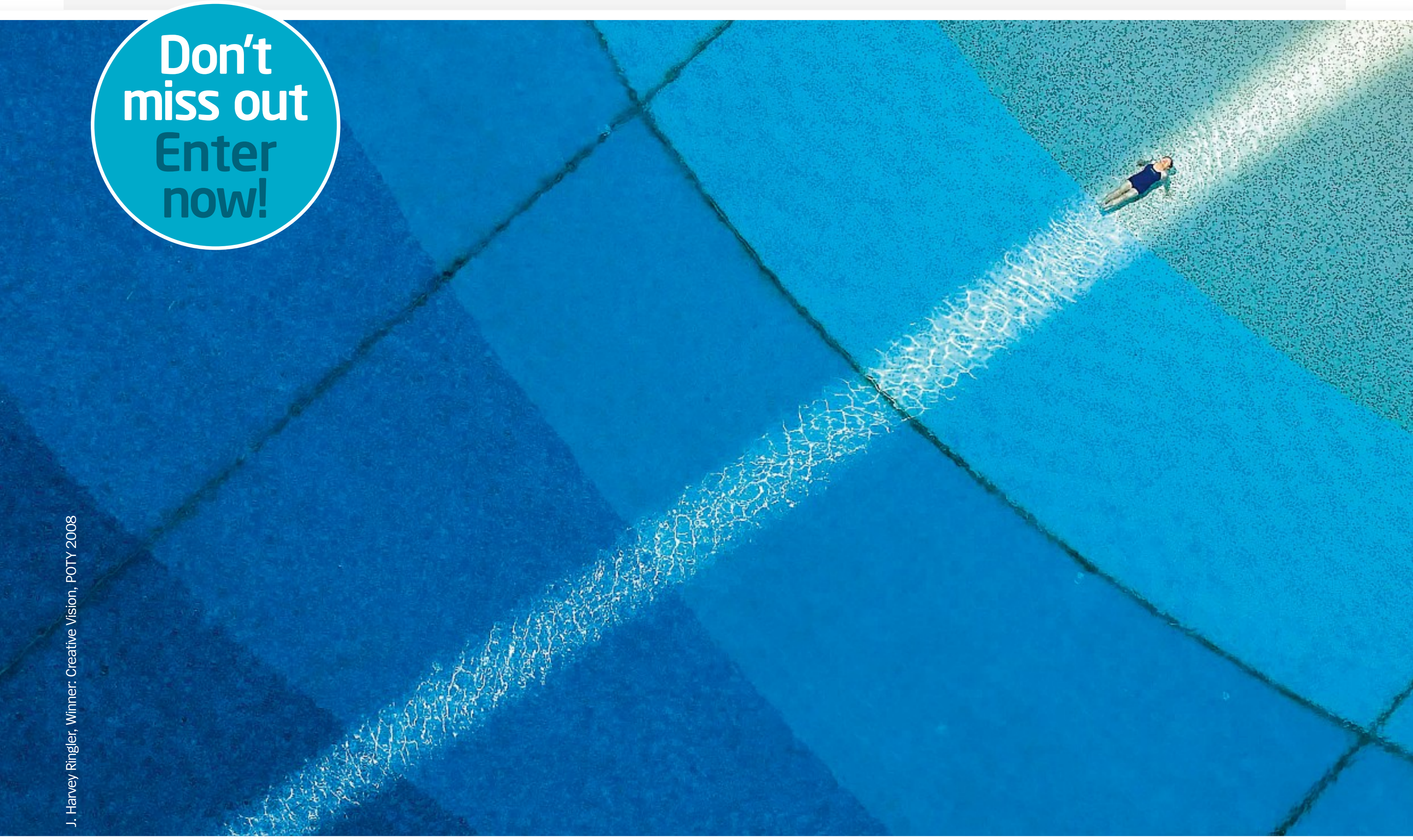

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J. Harvey Ringler, Winner: Creative Vision, POTY 2008

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davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

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Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@
steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/
cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.
com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
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www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus

[14] Glasgow MUG
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glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasmug.com

[15] Isle of Wight MUG
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[16] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesmug.org

[17] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[18] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[19] Manchester MUG
Manchester
simon.richards@
manmug.co.uk

[20] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[21] Naseby Mac User Group
Naseby
stuart.cato@mac.com

[22] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[23] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
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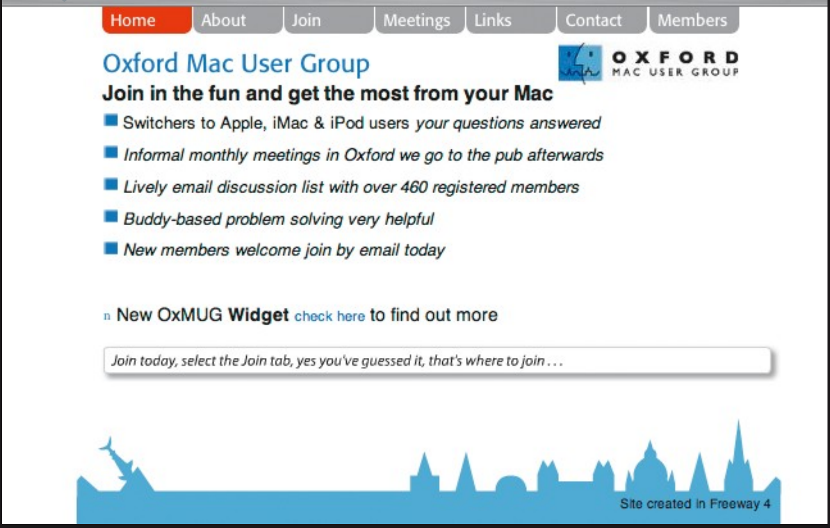
MUG OF THE MONTH / Oxford MUG



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- *Lively email discussion list with over 460 registered members*
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New OxMUG **Widget** check here to find out more

Join today, select the Join tab, yes you've guessed it, that's where to join . . .

The Oxford MUG has more than 300 members. Meetings are held in the Denys Wilkinson Building, Keble Road, Oxford. The next meeting, on the 11 August, is the group's annual iPunting social event, where they'll punt up the Cherwell to the Victoria Arms in Marston! Meetings have a £2 entry fee, which includes entry into a raffle. For more info, go to **www.oxmug.org**. ●

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trf.106@soton.ac.uk

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chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

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www.swmug.org.uk

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www.smug.ie

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jmuy@aol.com

[34] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

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monigmagr@mac.com

[36] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@
googlemail.com
http://swindonmacuser
group.googlepages.com

[37] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[38] Wessex MUGs
Fareham, Dorchester, Bournmouth & Salisbury
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www.wamug.org.uk

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West Oxfordshire
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www.witneymacusergroup.
webs.com

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If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email **macformat@futurenet.com**

Shareware

MEET YOUR MAC EXPERT

Shareware obsessive, Craig Grannell has more small apps on his Mac than Steve Jobs has black polo necks.

NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Steel vs Chrome wars

If you're sick of waiting for Google *Chrome* for Mac OS X, try *Stainless* (**www.stainlessapp.com**). *Stainless* is in beta and was initially a demo to showcase multi-processing architecture. It looks impressive, offering unique features, including the ability to sign into a site using different credentials in separate tabs.

CarPool Tony Hawks

QuickTime killer app

Video killed the radio star, and then the internet gave video a good kicking, but *QuickTime Player* has had little competition with video playback. However, Apple's app is limited in terms of the formats it plays and the standard version lacks features. *VLC* (**www.videolan.org**) has just hit version 1.0.0 and is worth downloading for those times when a video just won't play in *QuickTime Player*.

MULTIPURPOSE TOOL

Dropzone 0.2.7

$10 (£6) File and upload documents with ease

Usually, we harp on about focused applications, but now and again we come across a multipurpose tool that's just too good to ignore. *Dropzone* is one such product. It sits in your Dock, waiting for a file to be dragged to it, whereupon it presents a Stacks-like HUD menu. Drop your item onto one of the options that are visible and an action is performed on it.

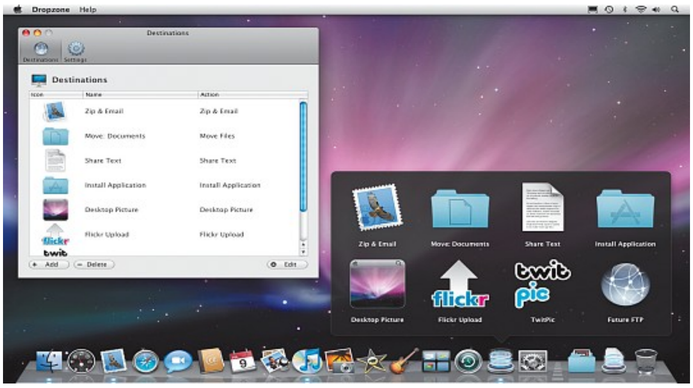
Dropzone comes with eight action types built in, and these are configured via the utility's straightforward Preferences section. Most of the actions deal with selections of files and/or folders, which can be zipped and emailed, moved to a user-defined folder, or uploaded via FTP. Where relevant, multiple instances of actions can be defined, so, for example, you can have several FTP locations set up within *Dropzone*.

> *"It sits in your Dock, waiting for a file to be dragged to it, then it springs into action offering you choices"*

During testing, we also became fond of the install application action (which mounts a disk image, installs the app within and then trashes the DMG) and Flickr Upload, which even has the decency to copy the upload location's URL to the clipboard when it's done.

Usefully, *Dropzone* is also extensible, and at the time of writing a dozen or so additional actions were available for download, including an action for uploading an image to *TwitPic*, and one which sets the dropped image as the Desktop picture. Unfortunately, these actions also highlighted *Dropzone*'s one major failing – on one of our test Macs, using these actions locked up the entire application. The developer says this is a known issue with the program and trashing the Library > Application Support > Dropzone folder soon had things running nice and smoothly again, although we also had one other freeze that required us to restart the application.

We don't think *Dropzone* will replace dedicated applications for most of the tasks it performs, but it should mean that you have to open them less often. And although *Dropzone*'s bugs stop it short of getting a *MacFormat* Choice Award, the application's sheer usefulness means it nonetheless sneaks a recommendation from us. ●


Dropzone
Help
Destinations
Destinations
Settings
Destinations
Icon
Name
Action
Zip & Email
Zip & Email
Move: Documents
Move Files
Share Text
Share Text
Install Application
Install Application
Desktop Picture
Desktop Picture
Flickr Upload
Flickr Upload
Add
Delete
Edit
Zip & Email
Move: Documents
Share Text
Install Application
Desktop Picture
Flickr Upload
TwitPic
Future FTP

Dropzone enables you to perform various actions on items dragged to it from Finder.

CONTACTS

Developer: Aptonic Software
www.aptonic.com

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"One major rough edge doesn't dampen our enthusiasm for this fine drag-and-drop file aid."

ON THE DISC

You can find all these program's on the disc.

>> MENU BAR TOOL

XMenu 1.9

£FREE Create shortcuts for your folders

XMenu adds pre-defined shortcuts to your menu bar, providing speedy, system-wide access to your Applications, Documents and Home folders. The display of resulting menus can be tweaked, amending icon sizes and enabling files to be placed after folders (unlike *Finder*). *XMenu* also offers two user-defined folders: one for storing shortcuts to items on your Mac and another for text/URL snippets. While *XMenu*'s functionality can mostly be duplicated via Dock shortcuts, its stability, good looks and user-definable aspects make it worthy of consideration. ●

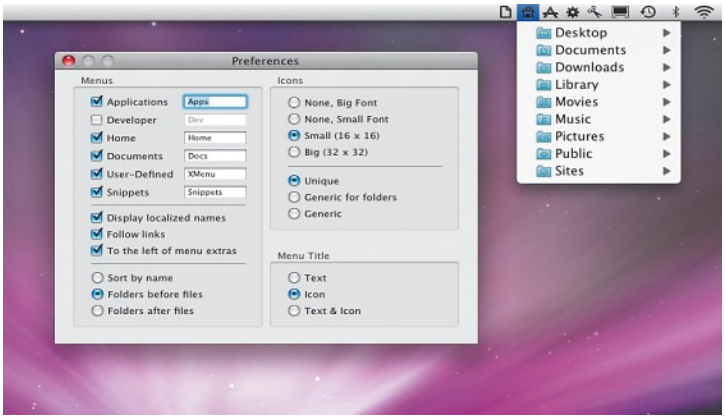
CONTACTS

Developer: DEVONtechnologies
www.devon-technologies.com

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"An efficient means of accessing Mac content for free!"


Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Library
Movies
Music
Pictures
Public
Sites

Preferences

Menus
☑ Applications: Apps
☐ Developer: Dev
☑ Home: Home
☑ Documents: Docs
☑ User-Defined: XMenu
☑ Snippets: Snippets
☑ Display localized names
☑ Follow links
☑ To the left of menu extras
○ Sort by name
● Folders before files
○ Folders after files

Icons
○ None, Big Font
○ None, Small Font
● Small (16 x 16)
○ Big (32 x 32)
● Unique
○ Generic for folders
○ Generic

Menu Title
○ Text
● Icon
○ Text & Icon

XMenu makes it easy to access programs and files on your Mac from an icon on your menu bar.

>> ANIMATED DESKTOP

My Living Desktop

$35 (£22) Soothing backgrounds for your Mac

Part screensaver, part animated Desktop, *My Living Desktop* plays a bunch of serene video loops on your Desktop to soothe you while you work. This might sound trite, but we found some videos very effective at drowning out distractions without being distracting themselves. Also, being able to activate videos as 'break' reminders proved useful. Some of the app's shine is removed by it being processor heavy, and automatic deactivation only works when defined apps are launched, not during switching. However, the ability to import your own videos is a nice touch. ●

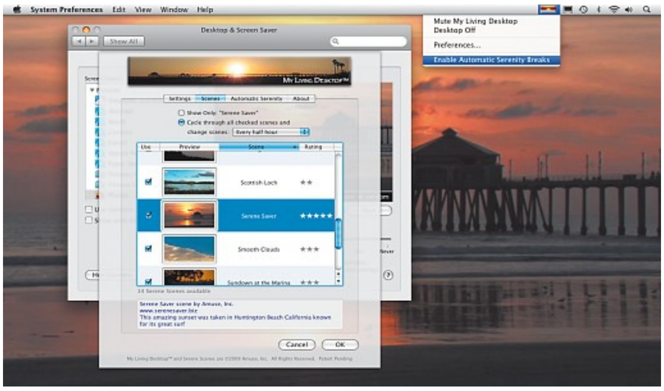
CONTACTS

Developer: Amuse
www.mylivingdesktop.com

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"An agreeable environment, with plenty of options."


System Preferences
Edit
View
Window
Help
Mute My Living Desktop
Desktop Off
Preferences...
Enable Automatic Serenity Breaks
Desktop & Screen Saver
Show All
My Living Desktop™
Settings
Scenes
Automatic Serenity
About
Use
Preview
Scene
Rating
Scottish Loch
Serene Saver
Smooth Clouds
Sundown at the Marina
Cancel
OK

It's certainly not for everyone, but this animated Desktop won us over with its charms.

>> DISK UTILITY

Baseline 1.5.1

$20 (£12) See where your HD space has gone

While hard drives are getting bigger, so too are media files; several Mac utilities exist to weed out huge files for disposal. *Baseline* resembles two of its rivals – *WhatSize* and *GrandPerspective* – mashed together, providing List, Column, TreeMap (see grab below) and Duplicate File views for any drive. Quick Look support is useful, as are colour codes and comparative scans against a 'baseline'. Conversely, TreeMap view is less usable and friendly than *GrandPerspective*'s (a better bet for beginners), but *Baseline*'s features make it good for professionals. ●

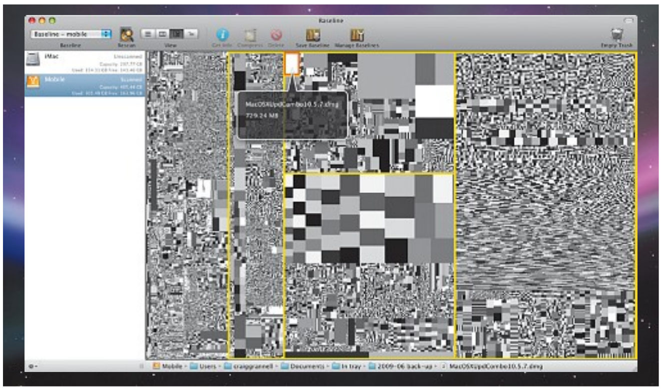
CONTACTS

Developer:
MildMannered Industries
http://tinyurl.com/nvd8th

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A decent utility to help with freeing up hard drive space."


Baseline
iMac
Mobile

Baseline's TreeMap view provides a graphical representation of your hard drive usage.

iPhone

» MEET YOUR iPHONE EXPERT
Deputy Editor Christopher Phin knows more about the iPhone than any one man has the right to.

● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foxconn suicide

A 25-year-old man employed by Foxconn, the Taiwanese company that manufactures many of Apple's hardware products, has committed suicide, following suspicions that he lost or stole a prototype for the next-generation iPhone. In the days before his death, Sun Danyong reportedly told friends that he had been beaten by Foxconn's security staff. An internal investigation has been launched, and an Apple spokesperson said that the company is waiting to see what the results of this investigation are.

Blu-ray and iPhones

Timed to coincide with the 28 July launch of *Fast & Furious* on Blu-ray, Universal Studios is to launch an app for the iPhone that will allow a degree of interaction with the film. *BD-Live* lets studios take DVD extras to the next level, adding interactivity and more. The *Fast & Furious* app is slated to build on the virtual garage section of the disc to view specs and 3D models of the cars.

» SATELLITE NAVIGATION

Navigon Mobile Navigator Europe

£80 GPS navigation on your iPhone – it's finally here!

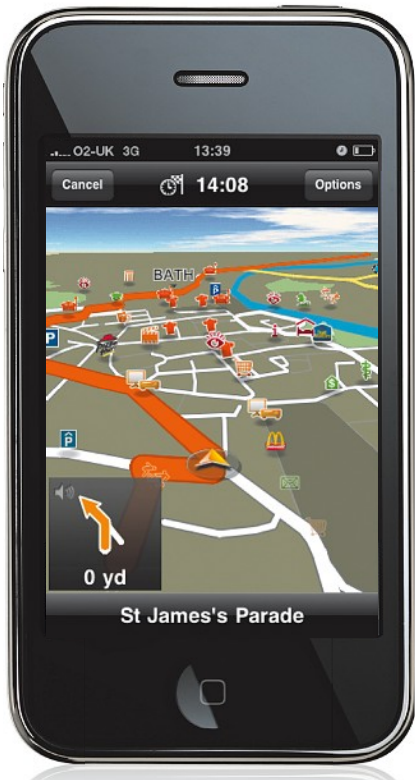
Thanks to changes to the terms of the iPhone SDK, we can finally add to the long list of devices the iPhone can transform into, like a satellite navigation device. Navigon might not be as recognisable a brand as Garmin or TomTom – whose as-yet-unreleased app and cradle set was demoed at WWDC – but it has a good pedigree. It contains maps for the whole of Europe – a UK-only version is available for £53 – so is a hefty 1.65GB.

Before we pick away at the edges, it's worth saying now that it works. The overall feel is, while there's room for improvement, Navigon has put a lot of effort into getting things right; the iPhone display toggles happily from portrait to landscape, and you can easily navigate to your contacts list.

> *"While there's room for improvement, Navigon has put a lot of effort into getting most things in this app right"*

So, the problems. Some are not the fault of the app; you'll need a cradle like Griffin's WindowSeat, and the iPhone's speaker is a little distortion-prone at sufficient volumes for the spoken directions. GPS plus the always-on screen eats battery life so you'll need a power adaptor. There are some niggles: you can start music playing before launching the app, but it won't duck to let the spoken instructions stand out, and street names aren't displayed in the 3D view.

More seriously, you can't do full UK postcode lookups, and there's no support for traffic updates, something that could easily be added (presumably for a cost) through the iPhone's data connection. Requires iPhone 3G or 3GS. ●



CONTACTS

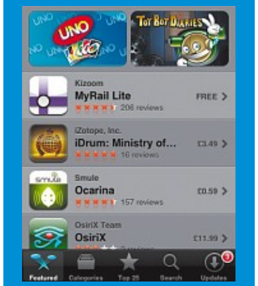
Developer: Navigon Mobile
Vendor: www.navigon.com

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"It works, but we're not reaching for our wallets till we see what TomTom produces for the iPhone later this Summer."

» DOWNLOAD THESE APPS



You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

>>POSTCARD MAKER

Postman

59p Send an instant postcard from your iPhone while you're on your travels

Postman makes little virtual postcards on your iPhone, and lets you share them using Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, email and more. You can snap a shot with your iPhone's camera, load up a saved photo – or choose from a small catalogue of stock landmark shots – or even grab your current location on a map in Map, Satellite or Hybrid view, and then add some text. Flip it over onto the back and you can write in a message; you can also disable the front or back.

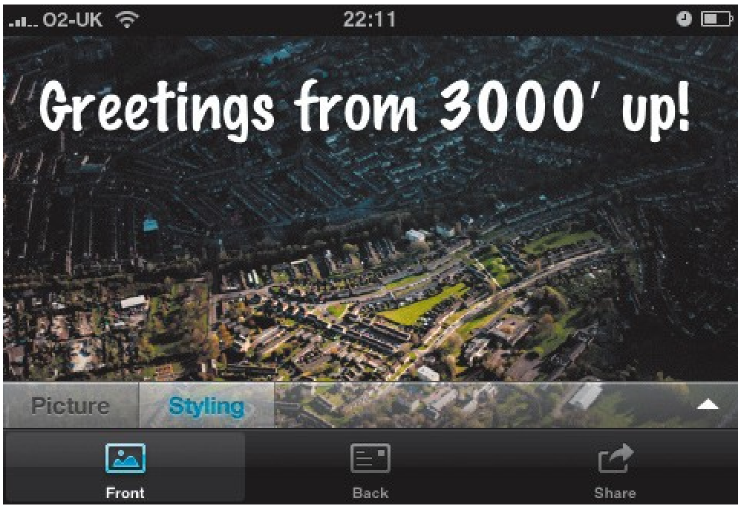
The UI is lovely, and there's a range of themes you can add. Changing the text size, style and colour is easy, but at the moment you can't resize images – coming soon, though.

It's easy to share your cards too, though there's currently no way directly to send via MMS; you have to save it as a photo, then MMS that instead. ●

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A sweet idea, executed with charm and polish, though some may prefer Postage."



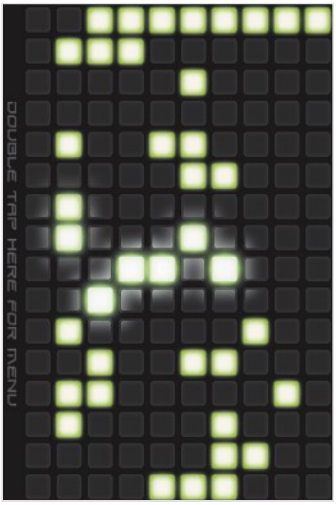
>>ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT

Melodica

59p A Tenori-on with 99.92% off the price!

You may never have heard of an odd, electronic musical instrument called a Tenori-on, but – ta-daa! – you can now get a kind of fake, unlicensed, and not-quite-as-good software version for your iPhone. (Which is just as well as a real one costs £750.)

It presents you with a grid of squares; tap them to light them up. It 'plays' in a loop, from left to right, sounding a note when the playhead hits one of the activated squares. John Williams's job is safe for serious composition, of course – and anyway, though you can save creations within *Melodica*, there's no way to export them – but my, it's fun. It's almost impossible to create a tune that doesn't hang together and sound great in a quirkily Japanese way. ●



VERDICT

★★★★½

"Fun for kids and big kids alike, though we'd like to be able to get the tunes out of the app."

>>DESK CLOCK

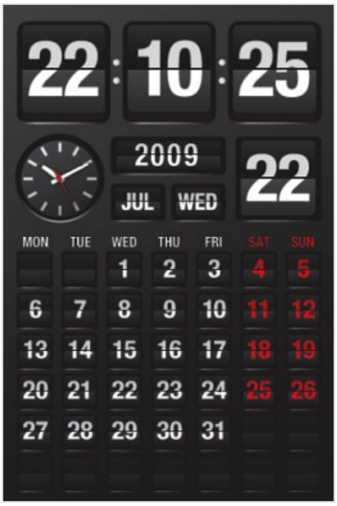
FlipTime

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

59p Clack! Clack! Clack! It's retro clock time!

The App Store isn't short on clock apps, but with SpoonJuice's *Night Stand* being downloaded more than three million times, there's clearly an appetite. This one caught our eye, and though it's hardly the most feature-packed app ever developed, it is charming – and while mean iPhone users might balk at forking out even 59p for something so throwaway, we say the care that has been lavished on the interface is worth rewarding.

It's essentially a software version of an old flip clock. As the seconds, minutes, hours and days march past, the cards flick down to update – and all with a satisfying (though optional) clack. It overrides your auto-lock settings too, so you can dock it and use it as a sweet clock for your desk or bedside. ●



VERDICT

★★★★★

"At just 59p, if you're a fan of the analogue, retro styling of FlipTime, this is a bargain."

Games

» MEET YOUR GAMES GURU
Andy Dyer is a gaming legend, having worked on many games mags. He now gets his fix on his iMac and iPod touch.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Knightmare

We were going to review iPhone game *Knights Onrush* a while back but it missed the boat, which is a shame. In this pleasingly cartoony action game you have to protect a castle from knights of different types by picking them up with your finger and flinging them to a variety of comedy deaths. It's frantic, a bit frustrating, but very addictive. **www.chillingo.com**

15 / 20
00000775

Put that in your pipe

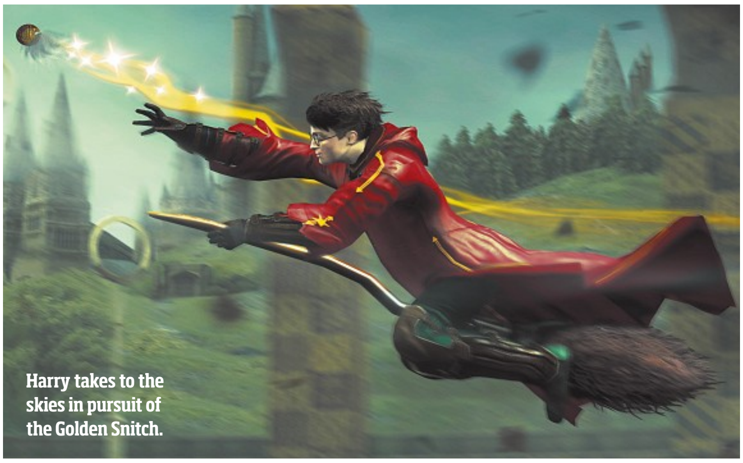
Virtual Programming has released some classic titles for Mac and iPhone. *Pipemania* involves laying pipe sections in order to redirect the flow of an ever-encroaching liquid called the Flooze. Failure is messy; success is hugely satisfying. Join us next month for a review of one or other of the available versions. **www.vpltd.com**

» ACTION RPG

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

£TBC Can The Boy Who Lived go on for much longer?

The latest Harry Potter game sees us rejoining everyone's favourite wizarding tale as Harry enters his 45th year at Hogwarts. OK, so it's actually his sixth year, but it feels a lot longer. And in truth it is a lot longer thanks to the pedestrian pace of both J K Rowling's writing and Warner Brothers' movie-making. At this rate Daniel Radcliffe will be drawing his pension by the time he gets to his final showdown with Ralph Fiennes' baldy-Voldemort.



Harry takes to the skies in pursuit of the Golden Snitch.

> *"What ensues is a haphazard mix of exploration, duels, Quidditch, potion mixing and spells"*

In spite of the tortuous stretching-out of this saga, we still find ourselves oddly excited by the release of each new Potter movie and game; such is the power of Rowling's flawed-yet-fascinating creation.

The latest chapter sees Harry struggling to get his wizarding stuff together on a number of fronts. You'd think being the chosen one would keep him occupied enough, but no. The bespectacled spellcaster is having romantic problems plus, on top of this, he has to deal with Voldemort's broadening and malevolent influence.

What ensues is a rather haphazard mix of exploration, duels, Quidditch, potion mixing and spells. In fact, everything you'd expect from a Harry Potter game. Were this a review we'd probably finish up by saying it looks great, plays well enough, but lacks ambition. Should the game throw up any innovative surprises we'll run a full review next issue. ●

The gameplay will take you right into the heart of Hogwarts - duels, spells, potions and all.

>> SIMULATION

Spore: Galactic Adventures

£20 Electronic Arts and Maxis deliver an expansion pack on a galactic scale

Will Wright's *Spore* has caught the imaginations of gamers worldwide, and with this new expansion pack, the game has been given not just a bundle of new goodies, but a whole new strand to the gameplay.

While most expansion packs simply provide new items and enhancements to the existing features, *Spore Galactic Adventures* is a bit more ambitious than that. This is about what happens after you've taken a character through the original game and reached the Space phase.

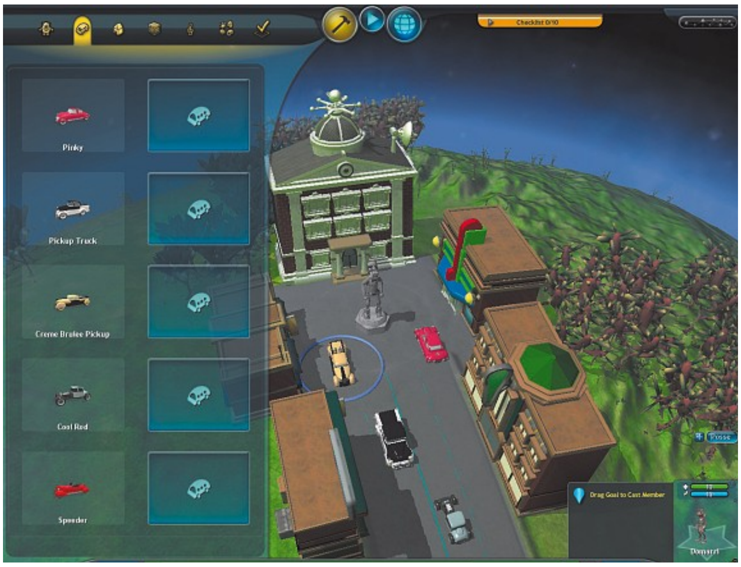
Space Captain

The idea in *Galactic Adventures* is to take a creature, make it a Space Captain, then beam it down to planetary surfaces so that it can take part in RPG-like quests. And, hopefully, it will gain experience and rise through the ranks in the process. You can choose a potential Captain, create one from scratch or randomise one. Whichever you choose it's then a matter of equipping and dressing up your Captain and heading off for a taste of adventure.

When you reach a planet your overarching task is to wander around meeting other creatures and talk to them, thereby securing quests in which to participate. Quests are diverse and can range from simply finding someone or returning lost property, to killing enemies or defending certain creatures or buildings from attack. It's superb fun and adds a whole new facet of gameplay to the *Spore* experience.

"You can then go on to name the adventure, write an intro, and even pen separate chapters to create a fully realised plot"

Better than that though, developer Maxis has seen fit to include a rather brilliant Adventure Editor. While it can be difficult to get your head around initially, it's worth the effort in the end because this adventure-creation tool increases the appeal of this expansion pack in a number of important ways.



Create your own world with the innovative Adventure Editor... and that's just for starters.

The most obvious benefit of the Adventure Editor is, of course, it allows you to create your own adventures. You do so by terraforming a planet, adjusting the colour and style of the terrain, adding flora and fauna, dictating the weather and placing objects. This is more than just an environment-editing tool, though. You can then go on to name the adventure, write an intro, and even pen separate chapters to create a fully realised plot. Then to make your adventure a living and breathing experience you can assign personality traits to the creatures and add the all-important goals, such as simple exploration, killing missions, deliveries, collecting tasks and defensive missions. The best thing about it all is that you can upload your creations for your friends to share.

As well as conjuring up your own adventures, Maxis is also working with other professionals to create further adventures for players to download for free. The first examples of this are levels that have been created by the team behind the animated TV show *Robot Chicken*.

The final verdict

Galactic Adventures is a polished and remarkably generous expansion pack. EA and Maxis could have continued to trickle out the themed bolt-ons, but with this release they have substantially added to the gameplay and provided plenty of scope for self-experimentation too. ●

CONTACTS

Developer: Maxis Software
www.spore.com
Publisher: Electronic Arts UK
www.ea.com
Vendor: D2D
www.direct2drive.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel Core Duo
RAM: 1GB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later **Hard disk:** 2GB HD space
Graphics: Requires a copy of Spore to play, DVD drive

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Create a Captain
- ⊕ Fun quests
- ⊕ Whole new strand to gameplay
- ⊕ User-created content
- ⊕ Bonus downloadable adventures
- ⊖ Complicated adventure creation

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An almost foolishly generous expansion pack giving players limitless opportunities to indulge their creativity."

Assign personalities to the creatures. Here we've gone for your basic male chauvinist pig with a hysterical female sidekick.

>> PLATFORM GAME

Braid

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

$15 (£9) Ever wished you could turn back time? Now you actually can

CONTACTS

Developer: Jonathan Blow
www.number-none.com/blow
Publisher: Hothead Games
www.hothead.com
Vendor: Greenhouse
www.playgreenhouse.com

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: PowerPC G4, G5 or Intel Mac 1.0GHz or greater **RAM:** 512MB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4/10.5 with latest updates, ATI Radeon 9500 or better, NVIDIA GeForce FX 5900 or better

PROS & CONS

- ➕ Enchanting storyline
- ➕ Pleasing looks
- ➕ Unique gameplay
- ➕ Superb level design
- ➕ Good replay value
- ➖ Devilishly hard in places

VERDICT

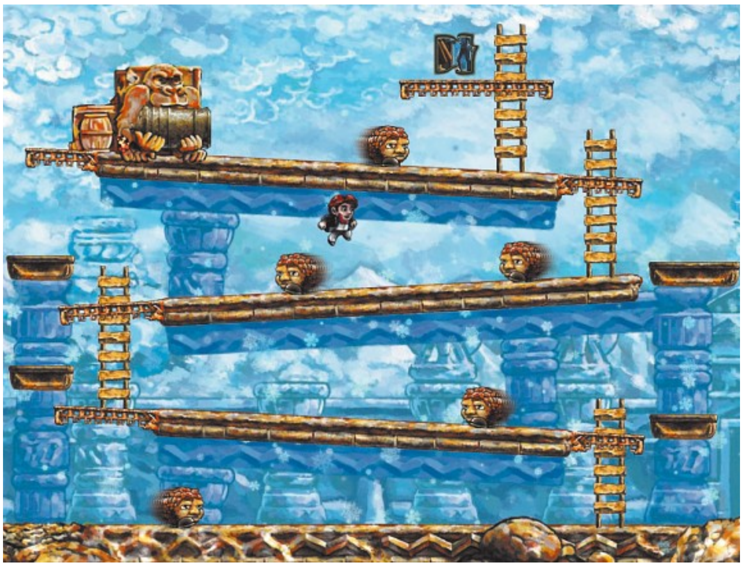
★★★★★

"This is the best platform game we've played in years. It has instantly become one of our fave games of all time."

Let's not beat around the bush: *Braid* is the most inventive and charming platform game we've seen in years.

It first proved a hit with gamers when it debuted on the Xbox 360's Live Arcade service, and now Mac and PC owners can discover the game's many delights.

Not the least of its charms is its storyline. The protagonist is a regular-looking guy called Tim who is searching for a princess who has been snatched by a monster. The details are vague on purpose, though, and it is unclear whether the princess is real, or simply represents Tim's desires. As the game is played more details are revealed about Tim's predicament. The tale is told in a beautiful, lyrical fashion that engages the player emotionally with Tim, in a way that's rare with videogames.


This platform game may seem basic but it will actually give your brain a proper workout.

Great graphics

The game's graphics have been similarly well-crafted with backdrops, characters and objects all created in an exquisite painterly style. There is also a suitably affecting soundtrack, which completes what is an unusually nourishing sensory experience.

For all the effort that's gone into the window dressing, though, it's the gameplay that really elevates *Braid* to instant classic status. On a very basic level it is a simple 2D platform game inasmuch as Tim can be made to run left and right and jump. There are also creatures in the game (such as rabid rabbits) that can be defeated with a simple head bounce. And there are puzzles involving switches, keys and locked doors. But within this basic framework is weaved a gameplay mechanic involving the manipulation of time, which turns an ordinary platform game into a mind-bending and unique puzzler.

> *"The tale is told in a beautiful, lyrical fashion that engages the player emotionally, in a way that's rare with videogames"*

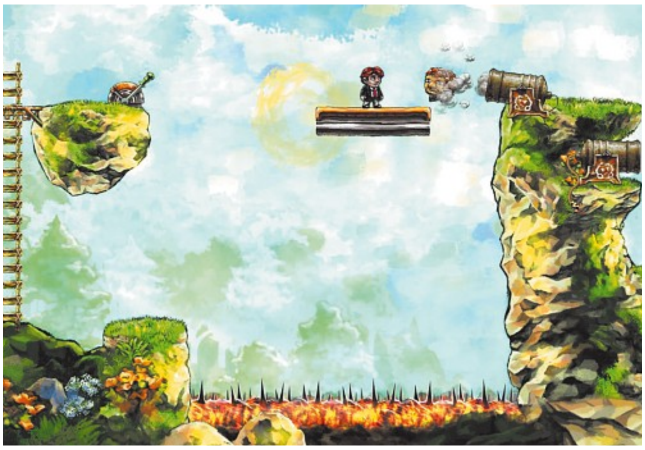
In the past there have been other games that have used time-shifting – *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time*, for example. But none of them has been quite like this. Each world in the game presents a new time-shift mechanic too, so there's always something fresh and bewildering to get your head around.

Initially, you simply need to rewind the action from time to time. If, for example, you die at the hands of an enemy or a trap, simply rewind and try again. Soon, though, objects are introduced that can resist time reversal. Objects that glow green are not subject to rewinding, so if you drop into a deep pit to collect a glowing key, you can then rewind to get back out again without the key returning to the pit.

In the shadows

Elsewhere, when you move forward, everything else will move in reverse. Some levels feature a Shadow Tim. If you perform a series of actions the Shadow Tim will re-enact them independently of the real Tim so multiple actions can handily be performed at once. And we won't even attempt to explain the magic ring that affects time differently according to an object's proximity to it – we'll let you see it for yourself.

If this is all a bit baffling, just wait until you actually play the game. But play it you must. It's beautiful, moving, challenging, satisfying and did we mention it was fun? In fact you could chuck a whole sackful of superlatives at *Braid* and not a single one would be wasted on it. ●


Take Tim through the gameworld in search of his princess, whoever she may be…

>>iPOD/iPHONE SHOOTER

Doom Resurrection

£5.99 It's not the original, but it'll do…

Developer id has seen fit to create an entirely original *Doom*-based title for everyone's favourite new handheld gaming device. However, the exercise hasn't been totally successful.

Rather than the free-roaming, first-person action of the *Doom* franchise, this is lighter, with predetermined movements.

Nevertheless, it is a classy game. It looks fantastic, the story is engaging and there are weapons aplenty.

In summary, *Doom Resurrection* is, like the recent *Silent Hill* app, a decent simulacrum of the real thing, but when push comes to shove we're left wanting more. ●

CONTACTS

Developer: id

Available from the App Store

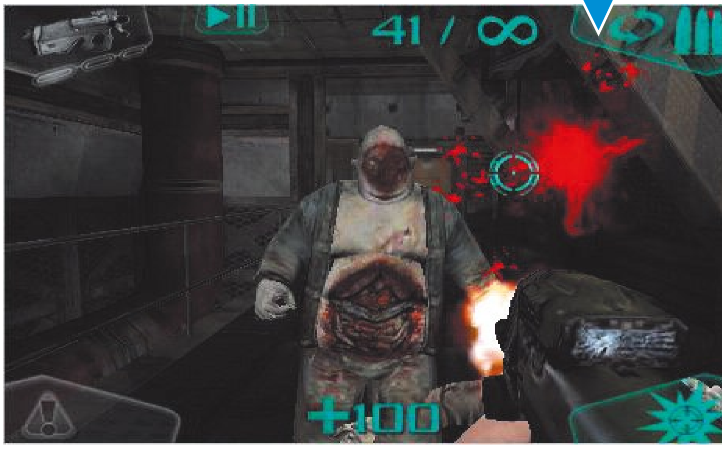
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Strong Doom flavourings, but it's not the real deal."

>>BUY ONLINE

You can download these iPhone and iPod touch games from the App Store.



There's certainly enough Doom-esque gore here, but we're still hankering after the original.

>>iPOD/iPHONE SHOOTER

Prey Invasion

£1.79 As good as Doom, with spare change

Welcome to the age-old story of Native-American-Indian-boy-meets-girl-who-gets-abducted-by-aliens-and-boy-discovers-spiritual-side.

This is the scene for the first-person shooter that works well on iPhone thanks to some intelligently designed controls – two analogue pads control direction and camera angle, while a screen-tapping mechanism will handle the shooting.

And it looks great. It's just a shame that the levels are a bit sparsely populated, and the level design is a bit weak. In places it's almost like a tech demo that the developers created just to see if it was possible to do it.

Nevertheless, *Prey Invasion* offers enough fun to make it worth a look, and features such nice controls it bodes extremely well for the next wave of iPhone FPSs. ●

CONTACTS

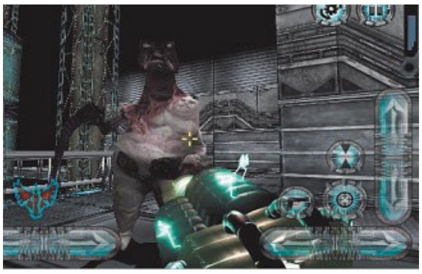
Developer: MachineWorks Northwest

Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A bit empty in places, but it plays like a proper FPS."



Prey Invasion provides plenty of entertainment despite the fact it occasionally dips in places.

>> iPOD/iPHONE PINBALL SIM

Monster Pinball

£2.39 Play the silver ball on your iPhone!

When it comes to a good old slice of straightforward pinballing fun at a ludicrously affordable price, *Monster Pinball* is pretty much unbeatable.

The ball physics are, if not spot-on, then pretty damn good. The major features of any decent table are all present and correct here. And rather than trying to introduce real tables in a shrunken form (which would be, frankly, unplayable on a small screen), *Monster Pinball*'s developers have prudently made the interconnected tables here spacious enough to allow for much realistic bashing and mashing of balls in an incredibly small space.

Fanatic pinball enthusiasts might scoff at this game a bit, but if you're a liberally-minded pinball fan, buy it. It's a great bit of gaming that's rewarding and addictive. ●

CONTACTS

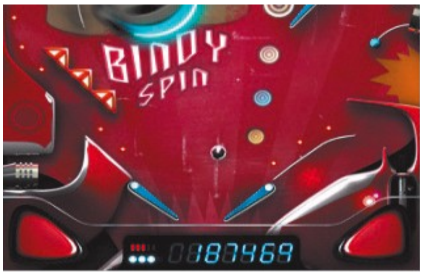
Developer: Matmi

Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Superb pinball that's clever enough to work on a small screen."



Get your fingers at the ready for this spot-on pinball game that'll keep you hooked for hours.

FTP is the usual way to upload files to your website.
Illustration by a.K.a.

>> FTP CLIENT UTILITIES

Fantastic FTP

Caspian Kidd puts six FTP clients through their paces to see which one comes out on top…

>> **DID YOU KNOW?**

FTP may be the most ubiquitous file transfer protocol, but it's by no means the only one; MobileMe users, though they may not realise it, are familiar with WebDAV, the technology that powers the iDisk service.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is a well-established way to upload and download files online. FTP client utilities (the programs you run on your Mac to connect to FTP servers) aren't exactly exciting, but they can be really useful.

We don't use these things for general downloading much these days, but this is still the best way to move large files around. If you ever do web design work of any description you'll recognise the need for a good FTP client. Even if your web software uploads for you you'll still find the need to look in yourself from time to time.

Anyone with WebDAV storage (and that's all of you with MobileMe accounts, by the way) should sit up and take note, especially if you use iWeb or iDisk. Apple's background updating takes an age to finish, but a good FTP utility can make life much better. Support for Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service) is also useful for very large file-handling.

The six programs in our test represent some of the best in this category, although there are others worth exploring too, if you have the time. The evaluation of the different programs was done using a number of different tests, all cooked up to reveal each FTP's individual strengths and weaknesses in different situations. We looked at everything from speed and file management abilities through to syncing and automation. We also considered the interfaces, although not as part of a separate test.

> *"Anyone with WebDAV storage should take note. Apple's background updating takes ages, but a good FTP utility makes it better"*

On test this issue

Captain FTP 6.1 $29 (£18)

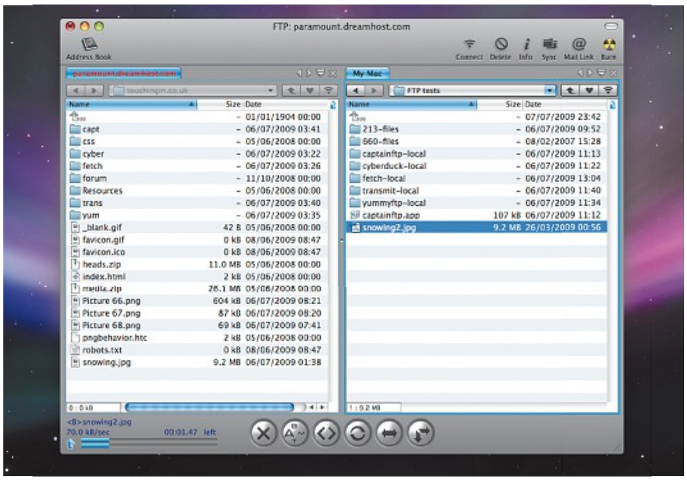
Cyberduck 3.2 £FREE

Fetch 5.5 $29 (£18)

FileZilla 3.2.6.1 £FREE

Transmit 3.6.7 $30 (£18)

Yummy FTP 1.7 $25 (£15)



Captain FTP gave a problem-free performance when it came to transfer speeds.

>> TEST ONE

Speed

Connection and performance with different file sizes

Simple drag and drop for uploads and downloads works with all these utilities, and they all handle large single file transfers at similar speeds. Transferring large numbers of small files takes longer, as each item has to go through its own transfer negotiation process. Because of the way some tools handle simultaneous transfers this produces surprising results, with the visually clunky *FileZilla* and *Yummy FTP* beating the rest and *Transmit* coming in last.

Most utilities performed fine, but it wasn't all plain sailing. *Cyberduck* regularly warned about FTP errors during uploads, although the data transferred correctly. We found *FileZilla* offered no obvious way to delete files (hint: ctrl-click), and only quitting the app appeared to cancel in-progress transfers. Finally, *Yummy FTP* unexpectedly quit a couple of times during downloads…

>> TEST RESULTS

Captain FTP	★★★☆☆
Cyberduck	★★☆☆☆
Fetch	★★★☆☆
FileZilla	★★★★☆
Transmit	★★☆☆☆
Yummy FTP	★★★☆☆

>> TEST TWO

Mirroring/syncing

Copying, mirroring and synchronising files and folders

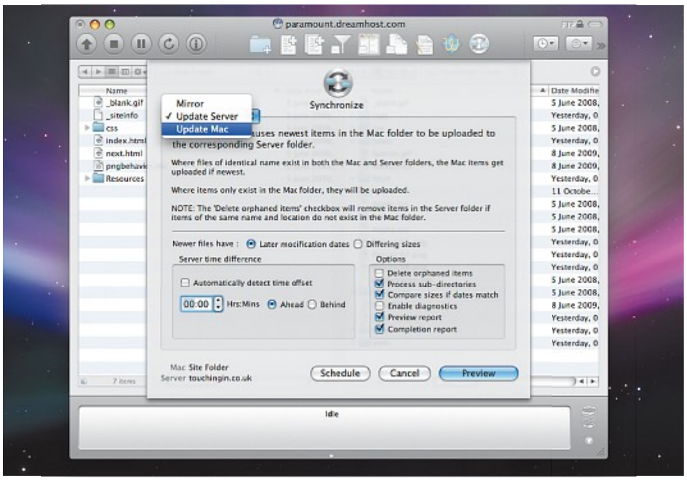
We looked at the tools' ability to watch folders on the local Mac and upload files or keep them synchronised with remote directories on the server.

Captain FTP offers 'virtual folders' – applets that upload what's dropped onto them over to a designated location. It also offers watch folders for syncing data, but this needs extra software and failed to work. *Yummy FTP*'s FTP Watcher offers automatic uploading with local archiving.

Cyberduck doesn't synchronise folders automatically, but it will do it on demand with download, upload and mirror options. *Fetch* only mirrors manually. *Transmit*'s manual Synchronize options distinguish between mirroring and updating, and can download or upload as required. Droplets can also be made for quick uploads. *FileZilla* offers directory comparison and synced browsing, but no syncing or mirroring.

>> TEST RESULTS

Captain FTP	★★★☆☆
Cyberduck	★★★★☆
Fetch	★★★☆☆
FileZilla	★☆☆☆☆
Transmit	★★★★☆
Yummy FTP	★★★★☆



…uses newest items in the Mac folder to be uploaded to the corresponding Server folder.

Where files of identical name exist in both the Mac and Server folders, the Mac items get uploaded if newest.

Where items only exist in the Mac folder, they will be uploaded.

NOTE: The 'Delete orphaned items' checkbox will remove items in the Server folder if items of the same name and location do not exist in the Mac folder.

Newer files have : ● Later modification dates ○ Differing sizes

Server time difference
☐ Automatically detect time offset
00:00 Hrs:Mins ● Ahead ○ Behind

Options
☐ Delete orphaned items
☑ Process sub-directories
☑ Compare sizes if dates match
☐ Enable diagnostics
☑ Preview report
☑ Completion report

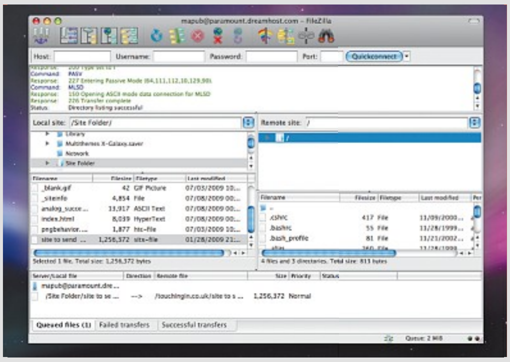
Mac Site Folder
Server touchingin.co.uk

Yummy FTP's Watcher feature offers automatic uploading with local archiving.

>> THE DOWNSIDE / Interface and behavioural anomalies

Each application comes with its own set of interface and behavioural oddities. These range from the very minor to the frustrating. Examples of the latter include the random button designs of *FileZilla*, *Captain FTP* and *Yummy FTP*. But there is no doubt that *FileZilla* deserves a big raspberry for having the most unpleasant and confusing interface. Whatever its actual pedigree, it looks like a textbook example of a lazy port from a Windows-centric tool, and it doesn't behave in a logical, Mac-like way either.

Buttons seem to be a major stumbling block for the designers of these tools; *Captain FTP*'s set have a certain consistency and style, but they're not all particularly understandable. A couple of *Yummy FTP*'s icons are just plain weird; is that a wineglass? No, it's a funnel – for filtering, apparently. Of course, for the worst offender we would turn back to *FileZilla*… but we really have had enough of that program now and we don't want to see it again until it has had a major rethink and makeover.



The dreaded FileZilla with its somewhat confusing interface.

>> TEST THREE

iDisk connections

Support for iDisk (WebDAV) file transfer

Using Apple's iDisk in *Finder* can be a painfully slow experience. Curiously, third-party tools that can connect will do it more rapidly. Why can't Apple speed up *Finder* to match?

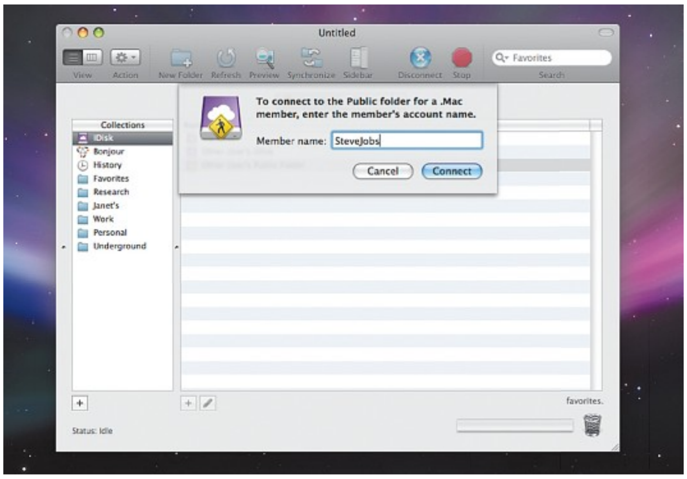
First up are the apps that opted out of this test: *Fetch* doesn't support WebDAV, nor, in fact, anything other than FTP-based protocols, so it was no help here. *FileZilla* is also a purely FTP-bound file transfer tool, as is *Yummy FTP*.

Then the failure: *Cyberduck* purports to offer iDisk support, but its uploading bug bites hard; items fail at the end of the process and aren't transferred at all.

Finally, the two that completed the course: *Captain FTP* doesn't fill in iDisk details automatically when selected, but it performs fine otherwise. *Transmit* provided easy ways to connect to your own iDisk, another user's iDisk, someone's shared Public Folder, or any other WebDAV source, even securely over HTTPS. Marvellous.

>> TEST RESULTS

Captain FTP	★★★☆☆
Cyberduck	☆☆☆☆☆
Fetch	☆☆☆☆☆
FileZilla	☆☆☆☆☆
Transmit	★★★★★
Yummy FTP	☆☆☆☆☆

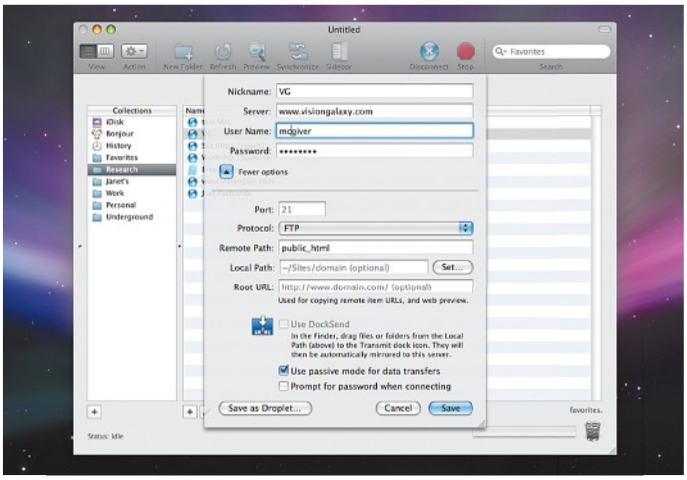

Untitled
View
Action
New Folder
Refresh
Preview
Synchronize
Sidebar
Disconnect
Stop
Favorites
Search
Collections
iDisk
Bonjour
History
Favorites
Research
Janet's
Work
Personal
Underground
favorites.
Status: Idle

To connect to the Public folder for a .Mac member, enter the member's account name.

Member name: SteveJobs

Cancel Connect

Transmit provided plenty of options for connecting the iDisk with no fuss.


Untitled
View
Action
New Folder
Refresh
Preview
Synchronize
Sidebar
Disconnect
Stop
Favorites
Search
Collections
iDisk
Bonjour
History
Favorites
Research
Janet's
Work
Personal
Underground
Name
favorites.
Status: Idle

Nickname: VG

Server: www.visiongalaxy.com

User Name: mcgiver

Password: ••••••••

Fewer options

Port: 21

Protocol: FTP

Remote Path: public_html

Local Path: ~/Sites/domain (optional) Set...

Root URL: http://www.domain.com/ (optional)

Used for copying remote item URLs, and web preview.

☐ Use DockSend

In the Finder, drag files or folders from the Local Path (above) to the Transmit dock icon. They will then be automatically mirrored to this server.

☑ Use passive mode for data transfers

☐ Prompt for password when connecting

Save as Droplet... Cancel Save

Transmit came out on top in terms of Favourites that could be organised into collections.

>> TEST FOUR

Bookmarks

Using bookmarks and favourites for your server logins

Managing lots of connections can be fiddly, so we tested the tools with several FTP logins.

Captain FTP has an Address Book window for connection list management – with options that may be daunting to some. Usefully, it imports lists from *Fetch* and *Transmit*. *Cyberduck*'s Bookmarks display is part of its connection windows; simple, but with no way to subdivide the list.

Fetch's Shortcuts display hasn't changed much for two decades. Entries can be edited and multiple lists can be made and saved, but it remains clunky. *FileZilla* has a bookmarks feature, but it's picky about URL formatting and often fails to store new bookmarks.

Yummy FTP's bookmarks options are well thought-out, however *Transmit* takes the prize for pleasing flexibility. Its Favorites can be organised into different collections, synced with MobileMe, and saved as droplets.

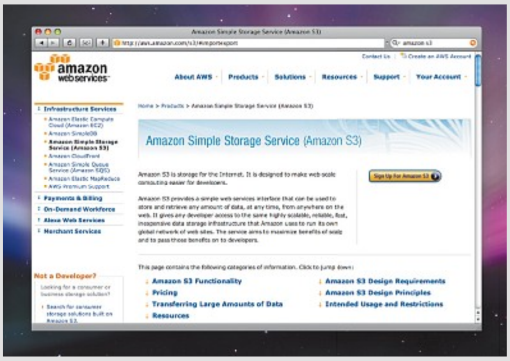
>> TEST RESULTS

Captain FTP	★★★☆☆
Cyberduck	★★★☆☆
Fetch	★★☆☆☆
FileZilla	★☆☆☆☆
Transmit	★★★★★
Yummy FTP	★★★★☆

>> MULTIPLE STANDARDS / Keeping it secure

The FTP standard is a clear-text transmission protocol, which means that transferred files, not to mention login details including passwords, are squirted back and forth in open, unencrypted form. If someone intercepted the traffic with packet-sniffing network tools they could, in theory, get all they need to hack your website. This is challenging but it can be done. Enter SFTP (Secure FTP) a form of FTP that incorporates encryption to prevent packet sniffing from extracting anything useful. There's also FTPS, which is FTP over TLS/SSL (Transport Layer Security and its predecessor, Secure Sockets Layer), other methods for transferring data with encryption.

WebDAV (Web-Distributed Authoring and Versioning) is common with some hosts. This builds on HTTP that makes web servers act more like regular read-write file servers. Apple's MobileMe iDisk service uses WebDAV. Another standard is Amazon S3. This storage service is designed to handle gigabytes of files and terabytes of transfer per customer for very low costs.


Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3)
amazon webservices
Contact Us
Create an AWS Account
About AWS
Products
Solutions
Resources
Support
Your Account
Infrastructure Services
Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2)
Amazon SimpleDB
Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3)
Amazon CloudFront
Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS)
Amazon Elastic MapReduce
AWS Premium Support
Payments & Billing
On-Demand Workforce
Alexa Web Services
Merchant Services
Not a Developer?
Home > Products > Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3)
Sign Up for Amazon S3

Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3)

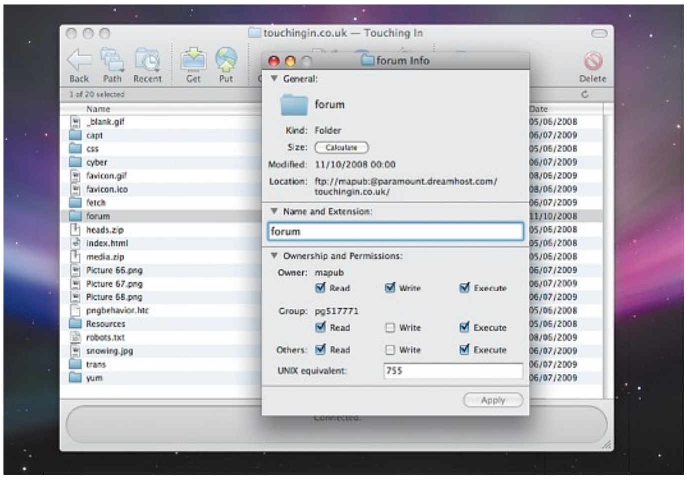
Amazon S3 is storage for the Internet. It is designed to make web-scale computing easier for developers.

Amazon S3 provides a simple web services interface that can be used to store and retrieve any amount of data, at any time, from anywhere on the web. It gives any developer access to the same highly scalable, reliable, fast, inexpensive data storage infrastructure that Amazon uses to run its own global network of web sites. The service aims to maximize benefits of scale and to pass those benefits on to developers.

This page contains the following categories of information. Click to jump down:

- Amazon S3 Functionality
- Pricing
- Transferring Large Amounts of Data
- Resources
- Amazon S3 Design Requirements
- Amazon S3 Design Principles
- Intended Usage and Restrictions

Amazon's S3 stands for Simple Storage Service. It's available now.



Name	Date
_blank.gif	05/06/2008
capt	06/07/2009
css	05/06/2008
cyber	06/07/2009
favicon.gif	08/06/2009
favicon.ico	08/06/2009
fetch	06/07/2009
forum	11/10/2008
heads.zip	05/06/2008
index.html	05/06/2008
media.zip	05/06/2008
Picture 66.png	06/07/2009
Picture 67.png	06/07/2009
Picture 68.png	06/07/2009
pngbehavior.htc	05/06/2008
Resources	05/06/2008
robots.txt	08/06/2009
snowing.jpg	06/07/2009
trans	06/07/2009
yum	06/07/2009

General:
forum
Kind: Folder
Size: Calculate
Modified: 11/10/2008 00:00
Location: ftp://mapub:@paramount.dreamhost.com/touchingin.co.uk/
Name and Extension: forum
Ownership and Permissions:
Owner: mapub ☑ Read ☑ Write ☑ Execute
Group: pg517771 ☑ Read ☐ Write ☑ Execute
Others: ☑ Read ☐ Write ☑ Execute
UNIX equivalent: 755

Fetch was the only one on test that was unable to apply permission changes recursively.

>> TEST FIVE

Permissions

Managing and editing permissions for files and folders

Even the simplest hand-tweaked forum or blog needs permissions control. You probably won't need to alter file and folder permissions often, but when you do you'll appreciate things that make this easy. Everything in our tests handled permissions settings adequately, although *FileZilla* once again gets the booby prize for only putting this command into the pop-up contextual menu. If you don't right-click/ctrl-click something you'll never see it.

Most of the apps use ordinary windows for permissions display and control. *Yummy FTP* uses a drop-down sheet-style dialog. *Cyberduck* uses a palette, which vanishes when the app isn't frontmost. All but *Fetch* can apply permission changes recursively – going down into folders – and *Yummy FTP* and *FileZilla* can target just files, just folders, or both. Only *Captain FTP* and *Transmit* can edit the owner and group.

>> TEST RESULTS

Captain FTP	★★★★☆
Cyberduck	★★★☆☆
Fetch	★★★☆☆
FileZilla	★★★☆☆
Transmit	★★★★☆
Yummy FTP	★★★★☆

>> TEST SIX

Editing and helpers

Editing remote files and working with helper apps

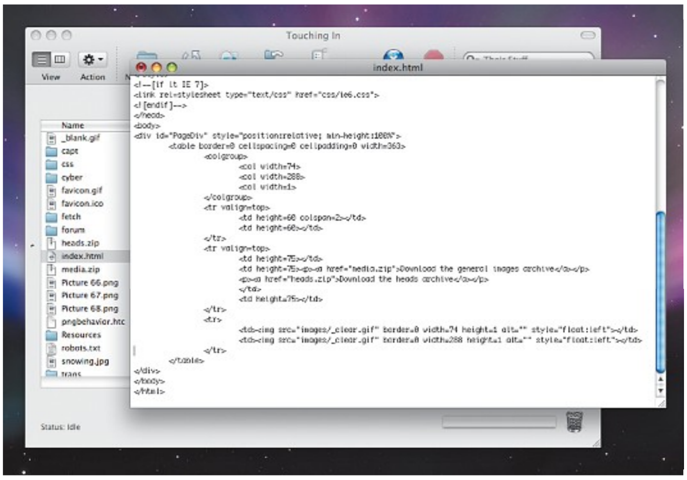
For web designers and those who dabble in scripting, you will benefit from a file transfer tool that helps you edit your files without having to download, save and re-upload all by yourself. This is handled differently in some tools.

Captain FTP and *Cyberduck* have no built-in editor, handing files to *TextEdit* or *BBEdit*, respectively, for editing. *Yummy FTP*'s internal editor appears as a sheet attached to the file browser window, so you can't work on more than one file at a time. *FileZilla* uses third-party apps for editing, but HTML files default to your browser and the options for changing this are designed for Windows rather than the Mac. But it is possible to work around this. *Fetch*'s internal viewer didn't work, but it can hand off files to various different editors.

Transmit has a decent internal text editor that opens in a new window plus simple links to your preferred external editors.

>> TEST RESULTS

Captain FTP	★★☆☆☆
Cyberduck	★★★☆☆
Fetch	★★★☆☆
FileZilla	★☆☆☆☆
Transmit	★★★★☆
Yummy FTP	★★★☆☆



```
<!--[if lt IE 7]>
<link rel=stylesheet type="text/css" href="css/ie6.css">
<![endif]-->
</head>
<body>
<div id="PageDiv" style="position:relative; min-height:100%">
        <table border=0 cellspacing=0 cellpadding=0 width=363>
                <colgroup>
                        <col width=74>
                        <col width=288>
                        <col width=1>
                </colgroup>
                <tr valign=top>
                        <td height=60 colspan=2></td>
                        <td height=60></td>
                </tr>
                <tr valign=top>
                        <td height=75></td>
                        <td height=75><p><a href="media.zip">Download the general images archive</a></p>
                        <p><a href="heads.zip">Download the heads archive</a></p>
                        </td>
                        <td height=75></td>
                </tr>
                <tr>
                        <td><img src="images/_clear.gif" border=0 width=74 height=1 alt="" style="float:left"></td>
                        <td><img src="images/_clear.gif" border=0 width=288 height=1 alt="" style="float:left"></td>
                </tr>
        </table>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

Transmit's internal editor will open up in a new window.

>> THE WINNER / Transmit 3.6.7

There was one product that came to the front in almost every test, so we have no hesitation in declaring Panic Inc's *Transmit* our choice for the FTP Group Test winner.

Transmit shows that the combination of elegant form and useful function can lift a product head and shoulders above its competition. It isn't perfect; it would be wonderful to have syntax-coloured text in its internal text editor, for example, and it didn't fare that well on the basic file transfer speed test because it processes the items within a single upload request sequentially. However, it's a well-honed tool that is designed to work in a pleasing, as well as efficient, manner.

Add to this the Dashboard client (also offered by *Captain FTP*, *Fetch* and *Cyberduck*), the **Docksend** ability (drop a file onto the dock icon for predefined uploading to one or more locations), and the droplet creation support and you have an app that is designed to work hard. Of course, many of the other products on test are worth considering, but most will agree that *Transmit* is king of the FTP world.

Transmit won almost every test apart from speed.

Mac FORMAT Winner!

FTP CLIENT UTILITIES / AT A GLANCE

Captain FTP 6.1

★★★☆☆

Cyberduck 3.2

★★☆☆☆

Fetch 5.5

★★★☆☆

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price	$29 (£18)	Open-source	$29 (£18)
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/615905	www.techradar.com/615914	www.techradar.com/615965
URL	captainftp.xdsnet.de	cyberduck.ch	fetchsoftworks.com
FTP	Yes	Yes	Yes
SFTP	Yes	Yes	Yes
FTPS	Yes	Yes	Yes
WebDAV/iDisk	Yes	Yes*	-
Amazon S3	Yes	Yes	-
Dashboard App	Yes	Yes	Yes
Folder syncing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Internal text editor	-	-	Yes**
Requirements	Mac OS X 10.4	Mac OS X 10.4	Mac OS X 10.3.9

FileZilla 3.2.6.1

★☆☆☆☆

Transmit 3.6.7

Mac FORMAT Winner!

★★★★☆

Yummy FTP 1.7

★★☆☆☆

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price	Open-source	$30 (£18)	$25 (£15)
URL	www.techradar.com/615999	www.techradar.com/616005	www.techradar.com/616040
Latest price on Techradar	filezilla-project.org	panic.com	www.yummysoftware.com
FTP	Yes	Yes	Yes
SFTP	Yes	Yes	Yes
FTPS	Yes	Yes	Yes
WebDAV/iDisk	-	Yes	-
Amazon S3	-	Yes	-
Dashboard App	-	Yes	-
Folder syncing	-	Yes	Yes
Internal text editor	-	Yes	Yes
Requirements	Mac OS X 10.5	Mac OS X 10.3.9	Mac OS X 10.3.9

* Cyberduck's iDisk support failed during tests. ** Fetch's internal text editor didn't work during tests.

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Build a better portfolio
Industry advice: 31 brand new ways to make your work stand out from the crowd
+
_28 pages of new Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash and InDesign skills
_Professional print finishes explained
_Paula Scher: Design icon
ition_Judged by the industry's top creatives
Graduate Showcase 2009 This year's best new design talent
_The world's hottest new design graduates introduced
_Studios and graduates: find the perfect match
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"Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are…"

>> IPOD SHUFFLE P118

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Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- LAPTOPS
- iPODS
- iPHONES
- SOFTWARE

Graham Barlow
Editor

Apple's new MacBook Pro family still stands out as its strongest notebook line-up for many a year. With three sizes – 13-inch, 15-inch and 17-inch there's something for everyone. The unibody aluminium cases are a joy to behold and give the MacBook Pros a strength and integrity that other notebooks struggle to match. Apple has now switched the entire range over to its unique sealed-in battery, which boasts an impressive seven hours of use on a single charge. While being unable to replace the battery yourself might sound like a huge disadvantage you need to remember that Apple's batteries have a much longer life span than typical notebook batteries, so it will serve you well for many years to come, and you can always get them replaced by Apple if they eventually lose their charge. The advantage of seven hours use without a recharge is difficult to deny. Take a look at the specs of Apple's entire range here.

>> BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

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How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you make the right choice

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

OS X 10.5 Leopard comes as standard on all new Macs. OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard will be released in September and will become the new default.

We've certainly seen a few changes over Apple's hardware range in recent months, and this continued with new ranges announced at WWDC in June. The MacBook Pro range in particular has had quite an overhaul, with an extended range of laptops at more affordable prices, but still with the incredible power that we're used to with the family.

There is now only one flavour of MacBook, and the MacBook Air duo has seen a processor boost. The changes complete the recent updates, which include a long-overdue Mac mini upgrade, with more power, hard drive space and RAM. The iMac has updated processor speeds, RAM and hard drive space up to 1TB and the Mac Pro now comes as either Quad-Core or 8-Core, offering the most powerful Mac yet.

> *"Desktop Macs are more powerful, but if you need to use your Mac on the go, Apple's laptops certainly won't leave you disappointed"*

Desktop Macs are more powerful, but Apple's laptops won't leave you disappointed, either.

Apple offers three choices of desktop Mac. The Mac mini may look tiny, but it packs a punch.

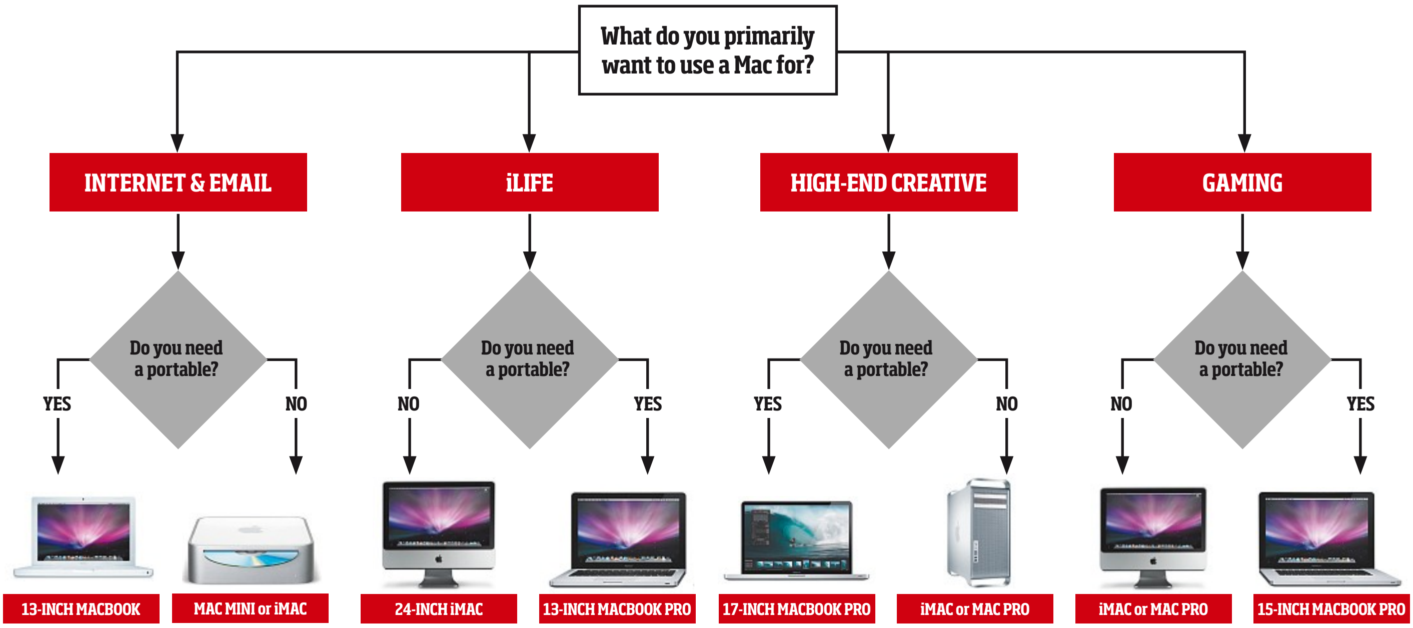
Making your mind up

All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips, as a minimum, meaning that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful. So now you need to choose whether you need a laptop or a desktop. If you work on the move then you need a laptop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The stylish white MacBook is just £749, and with its 2.13GHz processor is great for less intensive work, such as the *iLife* apps. It's also the ideal laptop for students.

While the MacBook range has been downsized, the MacBook Pro family had been extended and is more affordable. As its name suggests, the MacBook Pro is ideal for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. Starting us off are the 13-inch models with 2.26 or 2.53GHz processors and up to 4GB RAM. There are now three 15-inch versions to choose from: 2.53GHz, 2.66GHz or 2.8GHz. From £1,299, these mid-level MacBook Pros offer more screen space than the 13-inch versions and improved graphics. They

CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
13-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
24-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

now have built-in SD card slots to import your digital photos. Finally we have the daddy of the family, the 2.8GHz 17-inch version with a 500GB hard drive and up to eight hours of wireless productivity. Finally, the thin and light 13-inch MacBook Air has seen a speed boost and price drop. It does lack a built-in DVD drive and only has one USB 2.0 port, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. An external SuperDrive will set you back an extra £64.

Mac desktops

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £499 you get a 2.0GHz machine with 1GB RAM and 120GB hard drive, or a 2.0GHz with 2GB RAM and 320GB hard drive for £649. You will need to provide a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.93GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz with a 1TB hard drive, from £949. These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro, although for really intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,899, but with the options of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,173 or the 24-inch LED display at £635.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '09* suite. ●

> *"The 2.66GHz 17-inch MacBook Pro lasts up to eight hours on one charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

All Apple's MacBook Pro computers now have glossy screens. There's no matt option available, which has angered some.

The latest portable Macs come complete with a gorgeous and hard-wearing aluminium finish.

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20-inch 2.66GHz

£949

• 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 20-inch glossy widescreen (1,680x1,050 pixels) • 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/ CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.93GHz

£1,499

• 2.93GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels) • 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/ CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 256MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

Updated March 2009

iMac

24-inch 2.66GHz

£1,199

• 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels) • 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/ CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 3.06GHz

£1,799

• 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels) • 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/ CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 130 with 512MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Despite being tiny, the latest Mac mini from Apple now has five USB 2.0 ports and one FireWire 800 port.

2.0GHz 120GB

£499

• 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 1GB RAM (1x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 120GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive • 3MB shared L2 cache • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 128MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AirPort Extreme (802.11n) • 1x FireWire 800 port • 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09 • Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Updated March 2009

Mac mini

2.0GHz 320GB

£649

• 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive • 3MB shared L2 cache NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AirPort Extreme (802.11n) • 1x FireWire 800 port • 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09 • Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Mac Pro

Quad-Core
£1,899

- 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
- 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
- Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

8-Core
£2,499

- 2x 2.66Hz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
- 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD± RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
- Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

Updated
March
2009

13-inch 2.26GHz
£899

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 160GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM
- Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.53GHz
£1,149

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM
- Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz
£1,299

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.66GHz
£1,499

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 1.86GHz
£1,149

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 120GB Serial ATA, 4,200rpm
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Leopard
- 1x USB 2.0 port
- Mini DisplayPort
- MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch 2.13GHz
£1,349

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 128GB solid-state drive
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Leopard
- 1x USB 2.0 port
- Mini DisplayPort
- MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch white 2.13GHz
£749

- 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR2SDRAM)
- 160GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm
- 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR2 SDRAM
- AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera
- Bluetooth 2.0

15-inch 2.8GHz
£1,699

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card

17-inch 2.8GHz
£1,849

- 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
- 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Precision aluminium unibody
- Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

MacBook Air

MacBook

Updated
June
2009

MacBook Pro

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
Now Playing
Beautiful
Akon
3:40
-1:32
MENU

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"The iPod touch has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's simply a joy to use"

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find your ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your **iTunes** window when you're clicked on **Library** – you can get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices.

While most of us only listen to a fraction of our music – thanks to Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the 1GB iPod shuffle. Also available is a new 4GB shuffle, in black or silver, which introduces the VoiceOver technology. This enables the iPod to tell you what song is playing, who's performing it and what your playlist is called.

Slimline nano

The best compromise is the iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5-inch screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and the 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient. The choice of colour is vast, and there's a nano for everyone.

The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone. ●

Updated
September
2008
MENU
MENU

iPod classic

iPod classic 120GB

£175

- Up to 30,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 150 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod nano 8GB

£107

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Up to 8 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£146

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Up to 16 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

Updated
September
2008
MENU

iPod nano

iPod shuffle

iPod shuffle 4GB

£59

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver and black
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod shuffle 1GB

£31

- Up to 240 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
- No screen
- Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio) • 27.3x41.2x10.5mm
- 15.6g

Updated March 2009

iPhone

Updated June 2009

9:42 AM
8 of 38
Voice Control
call
play
shuffle
Cancel
315° NW

iPhone 3G 8GB

£342.50

- Available in black
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g)• Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
- 300 hours (standby)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 133g For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPhone 3GS 16GB

£440.40

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPhone 3GS 32GB

£538.30

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPod touch

Updated September 2008

Menu
36,310
05:43

iPod touch 8GB

£165

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 16GB

£214

- Up to 3,500 songs
- Up to 20,000 photos
- Up to 20 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 32GB

£283

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm • 120g

iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH

The iPhone is not just a phone – it's also a great iPod. Steve Jobs even called it "the best iPod Apple has ever made". But at 8GB the iPhone 3G is not capacious, which is annoying as the 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. The latest iPhone 3GS comes in a 32GB size, which is more like the kind of capacity you need for movies, but there are some key differences between the iPod touch and iPhone.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make phone calls. Fair enough, but remember that this also means that the iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff is that an iPhone costs a lot more, and you also have to pay for the data you use. You either have to take out a contract with O2 or buy it on Pay & Go from £342.50.

The iPod touch currently lacks many of the iPhone's features, including a camera, voice control and digital compass although rumours are that there will be a camera on the next generation of iPod touch models. See this month's Start Up for details. To find out more about iPhone 3GS tariffs visit **www.o2.co.uk**.

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £48 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Dimensions: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Connections: Bluetooth only; Power: 3x AA batteries; Requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

⊕ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
⊖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Intuos4 L ★★★★★

Price: £430 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/590021
Key specs: 5,080lpi res; 2,083 levels of sensitivity
⊕ Sensational technology; dynamic OLEDs
⊖ Expensive; previous tools incompatible

Microsoft Mobile Memory ★★★★★

Price: £50 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF/Bluetooth
⊕ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB
⊖ Odd acceleration behaviour

ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP620

★★★★½

Price: £108 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/477048
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi); 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in cassette

⊕ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
⊖ WiFi needs to be set up over USB

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy."

HP Officejet Pro 8500 ★★★★☆

Price: £299 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603509
Key specs: Printer/scanner/email; 4,800dpi
⊕ Packed with features; great text printing
⊖ Average photo printing; expensive

Canon PIXMA MX700 ★★★★☆

Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR
⊕ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
⊖ No duplex

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★★★

Price: £1,173 **Reviewed:** Issue 155
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/133337
Key specs: 30-inch screen, 2,560x1,600, 16.7 million colours, DVI display, 2x USB 2.0 ports, 2x FireWire 400

⊕ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
⊖ Need a lot of room to house it!

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with its Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are top-notch."

Sharp Aquos LC32X20E ★★★★★

Price: £517 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res
⊕ Great Mac and TV picture quality
⊖ Need a lot of room to house it!

Apple 24-inch LED Cinema ★★★½☆

Price: £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24 inches; 1,920x1,200 pixels
⊕ Oozes quality all round
⊖ Expensive and Mini DisplayPort only

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007

★★★★★

Price: £396 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/98316
Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 4x 16W RMS

⊕ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
⊖ Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."

Revo Blok ★★★★½

Price: £195 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/593649
Key specs: Aux input for all recent iPods
⊕ Rich, deep sound; excellent remote
⊖ Not for iPhone; can't sync with Mac

Creative Gigaworks T20 II ★★★½☆

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500205
Key specs: 14 watts RMS; 50Hz-20KHz
⊕ Superb, room-filling sound; solid construction
⊖ Slightly unnatural bass response

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DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd

★★★★★

Price: £120 **Reviewed**: Issue 197
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12MP; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation

⊕ Great value; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
⊖ Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The FinePix F50fd is £120 well spent."

Canon EOS 500D ★★★★☆

Price: £763 (body only) **Reviewed**: Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/596771
Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording
⊕ Increased ISO sensor; DV recording; 3-inch LCD
⊖ High price; no external mic

Olympus μ Tough 8000 ★★★★☆

Price: £70 **Reviewed**: Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603073
Key specs: 12MP; 5-18.2mm lens
⊕ Waterproof to 10m; shockproof; good wide angle
⊖ Controls are awkward to use

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £498 **Reviewed**: Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £599 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills & video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Canon HG10 ★★★★½

Price: £540 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom
⊕ Superb images; native support for iMovie '08
⊖ Ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AirPort Extreme Base

★★★★★

Price: £139 **Reviewed**: Issue 181
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP, WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

⊕ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
⊖ UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network in minutes."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £110 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

Apple AirPort Express ★★★★½

Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2
⊕ Easy to set up; AirTunes; supports Windows
⊖ Still need to add a broadband router

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax

★★★★★

Price: £80 **Reviewed**: Issue 182
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) & 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) transfer speeds

⊕ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; Mac mini shape; very fast
⊖ Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini has substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."

Buffalo TeraStation III 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £667 **Reviewed**: Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/604216
Key specs: 2TB capacity; 2x Gigabit Ethernet
⊕ Fast read/write performance; huge storage space
⊖ Expensive even for capacity; flimsy door

Apple Time Capsule 500GB ★★★★☆

Price: £229 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589636
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ n & g networks run at full speed; USB disk
⊖ Expensive; no built-in modem; slow first backup

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BUYERS' GUIDE

» iPOD ACCESSORIES

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

★★★★★

Price: £108 **Reviewed**: Issue 193
Web: www.iskin.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/224088
Key specs: Turn iPod into a remote; 10m range; easy USB connection

➕ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
➖ High price

"This little accessory offers a very obvious improvement over the way people normally use iPod speakers."

Macally PowerPal ★★★★★

Price: £10 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611989
Key specs: Four plug heads for UK, Europe, US, Asia
➕ Only a tenner; comes with spare USB cable
➖ Nothing

RothDock ★★★★☆

Price: £99 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611361
Key specs: Also compatible with iPhone 3G/3GS
➕ No configuration needed; remote control
➖ No video streaming

» MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III

★★★★★

Price: £195 **Reviewed**: Issue 200
Web: www.project-audio.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/102079
Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk

➕ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
➖ Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is outstanding - and that's before you add a USB interface."

Elgato turbo.264 HD ★★★★½

Price: £138 **Reviewed**: Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/596751
Key specs: Output: iPod high/standard; iPhone; PSP
➕ Super-fast H.264 encoding
➖ No longer supports PowerPCs; expensive

Macally Powerlink 3-in-1 ★★★★☆

Price: £42 **Reviewed**: Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087
Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0
➕ Very versatile; convenient for travellers
➖ Expensive; loose caps easily lost

» iPHONE APPLICATIONS

Twitterrific Premium

★★★★½

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@LewisBeechey http://tinyurl.com/o67rr9 :-)

TomIsGeek
@MacFormat Hi MacFormat :D

James Turner
@MacFormat Witty bon mots. I'm sure I don't know what you mean! :-)

Dave Rutt

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed**: Issue 210
Web: www.iconfactory.com
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.2 or later
Available from the App Store, directly through your iPhone or via iTunes.

➕ Lovely interface; beefed-up features list; support for multiple accounts
➖ Reposting between accounts is tricky; basic stuff needs configuring

"An application that definitely repays the time spent exploring it. A firm favourite."

Birdhouse ★★★★★

Write

"To tweet, or not to tweet: that is the question"
-Shak

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed**: Issue 209
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.1

➕ Draft multiple Twitter notes before you tweet
➖ Only useful if you are a complete Twitter addict

Documents To Go ★★★★☆

Price: £2.99 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.0

➕ A great option for creating and editing text docs
➖ No support for RTF files; cannot edit Excel files

» EMAIL CLIENTS

Apple Mail 3.3

★★★★★

Price: £85 (with OS X) **Reviewed:** Issue 198
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/591016
System reqs: 9867MHz Mac, 512MB RAM, 9GB HD space, DVD drive, Mac OS X 10.5

➕ Easy to install and use; good spam protection; excellent search filters
➖ Need Leopard for latest version

"Apple Mail is more mature and more reliable than the competition. It's great for home or business use."

Mozilla Thunderbird ★★★★½

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 198
Full review: www.techradar.com/142475
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.2 or later
➕ Excellent spam protections; simple setup
➖ Not perfect OS X integration

Microsoft Entourage 2008 ★★★★☆

Price: £100 (with Office) **Reviewed:** Issue 198
Full review: www.techradar.com/142428
System reqs: 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9
➕ Ease of use and setup can't be faulted
➖ No integrated RSS reader

HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended).

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

APP4MAC Twin 1.01 ★★★★★

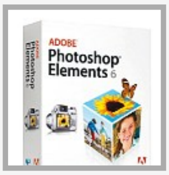
Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611922
System reqs: Power PC G4, G5/Intel Mac
⊕ Back up to multiple destinations; easy to use
⊖ None

FileMaker Pro 10 ★★★★★

Price: £261 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500402
System reqs: G4/G5; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.11
⊕ Script triggers; customisable toolbar; SMTP
⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Photoshop Elements 6



★★★★★

Price: £68 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB rec); 64MB VRAM, 1GB hard disk space

⊕ Good interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves
⊖ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."

ImageWell 3.7.1 ★★★★½

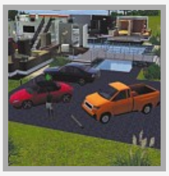
Price: $20 (£14) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/595105
⊕ Efficient and feature rich; decent web tools
⊖ Ugly, clunky interface

Dream Capture ★★★★☆

Price: £7 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611327
System reqs: G5 Mac; 3.5MB disk space
⊕ Instantly saved videos; good value for money
⊖ Some file sizes very large

GAMES

The Sims 3



★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Web: www.eagames.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 2GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or GMA X3100 (GMA 950 not supported)

⊕ Looks great; more customisable; goals-based gameplay; easy to explore
⊖ It should be an online game; there are no pets

"Hopefully The Sims 4 will be a fully-interactive online game. In the meantime, The Sims 3 is the perfect sequel."

And Yet It Moves ★★★★★

Price: €12 (£11) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.andyetitmoves.net
System reqs: G4/G5/Intel 2GHz; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.4
⊕ Looks and sounds great; interesting gameplay
⊖ Too short

Qwak ★★★★★

Price: £13 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Web: www.qwak.co.uk
System reqs: 5.5MB hard drive space
⊕ Old-school gameplay, 80-plus levels
⊖ It's all about points

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio

★★★★★

Price: £312 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 screen; QuickTime 7.2 or later; 7GB HD space

⊕ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive interface
⊖ Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is a comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."

Apple iPhoto '09 ★★★★★

Price: £69 (part of iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: G4/G5; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.6
⊕ Practical tools; new options to export slideshow
⊖ Faces could be better; few cameras have GPS

Apple iTunes 8 ★★★★★

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551 **System reqs:** G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
⊖ Genius recommendations affect performance

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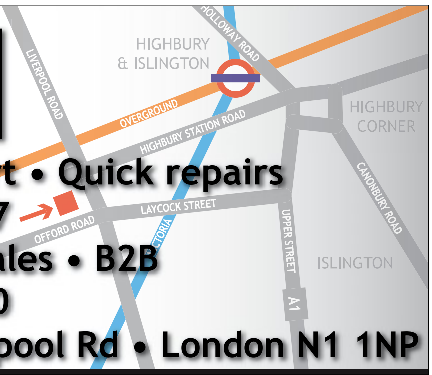
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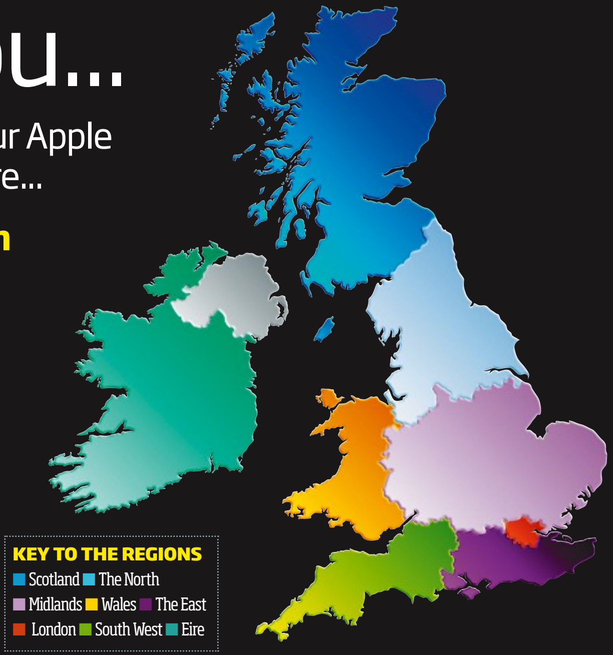

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EDITORIAL
EDITOR **Graham Barlow**
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
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christopher.phin@futurenet.com
REVIEWS EDITOR **Ian Osborne**
ian.osborne@futurenet.com
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michelle.camaibatiki@futurenet.com
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simon.holland@futurenet.com

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS
Adam Banks, Matthew Bolton, Ben Brain, Christopher Brennan, Rob Buckley, Clem Chambers, Alan Dexter, Andy Dyer, Jonny Evans, Bill Gallop, Craig Grannell, Richard Hill, Cliff Joseph, Caspian Kidd, Rod Lawton, MacFixIt, Susie Ochs, Barnaby Page, Steve Paris, Davina Rungasamy, Luis Villazon

ART CONTRIBUTORS
a.K.a., Apple, Tom Frost, Future Photo Studio (Joseph Branston, Neil Godwin), Jennifer Henson, MagicTorch

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GROUP SENIOR EDITOR **Nick Merritt**
CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Robin Abbott**
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ADVERTISING
ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR **Rob Elms**
rob.elms@futurenet.com
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER **Charlie Said**
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CIRCULATION
TRADE MARKETING MANAGER
Stuart Brown stuart.brown@futurenet.com
SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER
Joanne Coppin joanne.coppin@futurenet.com

PRINT & PRODUCTION
PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR
Charlene Vaughan
charlene.vaughan@futurenet.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Rose Griffiths rose.griffiths@futurenet.com
HEAD OF PRODUCTION
Richard Mason richard.mason@futurenet.com

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INTERNATIONAL LICENSING DIRECTOR
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FUTURE PUBLISHING LIMITED
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR **Stuart Anderton**
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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER **Simon Wear**
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www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive: Stevie Spring
Non-executive Chairman: Roger Parry
Group Finance Director: John Bowman
Tel +44 (0)20 7042 4000 (London)
Tel +44 (0)1225 442244 (Bath)

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COMING SOON

Next month:

101 ESSENTIAL OS X TIPS!

Unmissable hints and tips for getting more out of your Mac

The launch of an Apple Store

The MF report from the recent Apple Store opening in Brighton

Mac FORMAT
ON SALE
Wednesday
16 September
2009

DISCOVER HOW TO…

- Get started with Aperture
- Discover hidden Dock settings
- Master lighting in Photoshop

ALL THIS AND MORE!

Contents subject to change

On the disc

● FULL SOFTWARE ● EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ● ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ● READER OFFERS

Welcome to the disc

Issue 212

Way back in 1941, an advertising executive, who went by the name of Alex Osborn, devised some rules to give people the freedom of mind and action with the intention of inspiring and revealing new ideas.

It's highly unlikely that he thought his concept of brainstorming would become so widespread as it is in today's world. In fact, it is now so commonplace that *MacFormat* has bundled a series of tools to help with both brainstorming ideas and improving your IQ. And for more ideas, there's also a superb tutorial to accompany these apps over on page 53.

> *"NovaMind produces a mind map to display your ideas in a visually representative manner"*

On this issue's disc, keep an eye out for brain-exercising software such as *NovaMind*. This is perfect for producing a mind map to display your ideas in a more visually representative manner. And, what's even more great about the tool is its *iPhoto* integration, vast library of images and various settings for reflections, borders, boundaries and corner styles. You should also give *Brain Workshop* a try, it contains some of few mental activities that can improve both short-term memory and IQ.

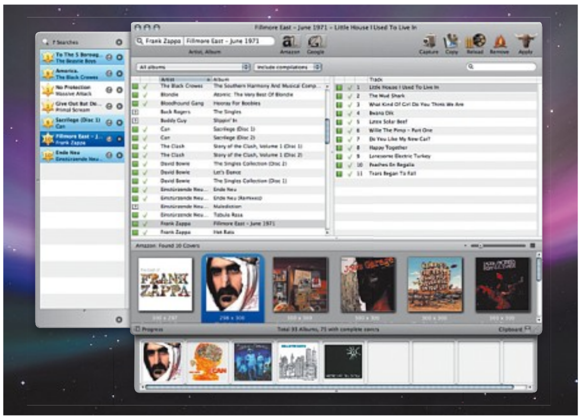
Each issue, New Media Editor Simon Holland selects a fantastic array of software for you to enjoy on your Mac.

>> FULL SOFTWARE

CoverScout 2

Seek out missing iTunes artwork

With Cover Flow - the *iTunes*-integrated animated, three-dimensional graphical user interface - Apple has provided users with a more attractive method of flipping though music artwork. The downside is that the artwork needs to be there or you're left with rather generic imagery. This is where *CoverScout* enters the fray as it goes through the internet's backbone in search of cover artwork missing from your *iTunes* music collection. ●



CoverScout 2 makes browsing your music a pleasure rather than a chore.

>> FULL SOFTWARE

Style Master 4.6

More than a simple text editor

style master
CSS EDITOR

Should you be looking to get your mitts filthy by delving right into the crux of a website, the chances are you'll be editing the raw source code in a text editor. But if you're looking for something a little less IQ-intensive, you may prefer to go the WYSIWYG route for the straightforward manipulation of your web presence. *Style Master* fits this billing, especially if your site relies on CSS. Best of all, it comes with a series of templates so there's no need for graphic design experience. ●

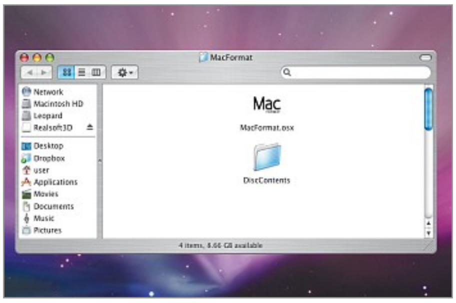
>> FULL SOFTWARE

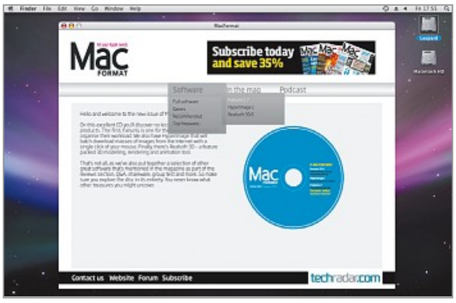
Aiko 4 Starter Pack

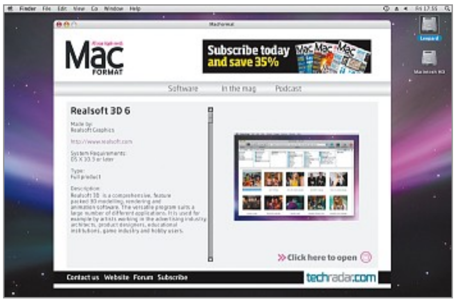
Great models to use with DAZ Studio

From time to time everybody needs a quick 3D render fix. The problem is that unless you're working with 3D regularly, it's difficult to justify the outlay required for a package such as *Maya* or some other movie-production grade software used by major Hollywood studios. Fortunately *DAZ Studio* caters for that other end of the spectrum and to accompany the review of the product on page 90, we've included some great 3D models on the disc worth $130 (£79). ●

HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc







01 Loading the disc

After inserting your *MacFormat* disc into your drive, double-click the disc icon on your Desktop, then double-click the icon named MacFormat.osx. This will load the interface so you can view info about the items on the disc.

02 The software

Once loaded, accept the terms and conditions in order to go to the homepage. From here you can click **Software**, **In The Mag** or **Podcast**. The first two lead to sub-sections, which contain the software tools.

03 Getting the apps

Selecting an item will load details about the software. To delve straight into the app, click **Click here to open**. An installer will load or you will go to a window to extract the archive or execute the set-up file manually.

Full disc contents

The complete list to what you'll find on your disc this issue

FULL SOFTWARE

Aiko 4 Starter Pack
CoverScout 2
Style Master 4.6

RECOMMENDED

CoverScout 3.1.1
Style Master 5.0

TOP FREEWARE

A-Cownts 1.1b
AnyToISO 2.4
App Store Expense Monitor 1.0.6
invisibliX 2.2.1
iPhone Explorer 1.05b
Photonator 0.961
Reference Miner 3.1.1
Suspicious Package 1.2

DropZone 0.2.6 is just one of the handy apps on this month's disc.

Timer Utility 3.2
WhatLCD 1.0

WIDGETS

CocktailSearch 1.3
iSyncButton 1.0

MailWidget 3.07
Moon Phase 1.0

IN THE MAG

Group test
Captain FTP 6.1

Cyberduck 3.2
Fetch 5.5.1
FileZilla 3.2.6.1
Transmit 3.6.7
Yummy FTP 1.7.2

Shareware

Baseline 1.5
Dropzone 0.2.6
My Living Desktop 4.0
Stainless 0.6.5
VLC Media Player 1.0
XMenu 1.9

Tutorials

Brain Workshop 4.5
Connoisseur 1.3.1
iFlash 2.8.1
iKanji 1.2
iMemory 1.0
Infinite Crosswords 1.0
iSpeedRead 1.0
MacGourmet Deluxe 1.2
Mail Act-On 2.0.5
myRecipes 2.4
NovaMind 4.7
Open Fitness 1.0
Party Pro for iPod 9.0
Recipe Box 1.4.2
SousChef 1.2
Speed Reading III 1.2.1
SudokuAdept 1.6

READER OFFERS / Save yourself £££s

Money off Aiko productcs

If you buy more DAZ add-ons *MacFormat* readers will get 30% off any Aiko add-on products, including *Aiko 4 Pro*. Enter this code on checkout: MACFRMTAIKO4709. Readers need to sign up for a free DAZ 3D account prior to purchase. Offer expires on 31 October 2009.

50% off CoverScout 3

Sort out your *iTunes* artwork by getting *CoverScout 3* for just half price! Purchase the latest and greatest edition of *CoverScout* for only €25 (£22) - an amazing 50% saving on the original price. See the equinux store via **www.equinux.com** for more details.

GET YOUR SERIAL CODE

Some products on the disc require registration to unlock all the features. Instructions are on the interface, which is loaded from the disc's root.

HAVING PROBLEMS?

In the unlikely event of your disc being defective, please email our support team at **support@futurenet.co.uk** for further assistance. If you would prefer to talk to a member of our support team in person, call **01225 822743**. If you have comments about the software we include or you have suggestions for software that you would like to see on future discs, please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at **simon.holland@futurenet.com**

On your disc

Find three full programs plus a selection of widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

Mac
FORMAT
ISSUE 212 / September 2009

MISSING YOUR DISC?

If your disc is missing, email support@futurenet.co.uk or phone 01225 822743

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the MacFormat disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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MAC212 DISC

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Available for iPhone!
miniGORE
Tiny Creatures, Giant Adventure
Score 156
Score 310
Score 260
MOUNTAIN SHEEP
chillingo

Brighton
12-13 Brighton Place
The Lanes. BN1 1HJ

Hove
255 Old Shoreham Rd
Hove. BN3 7ED

Guildford
27 Friary Street.
Guildford. GU1 4EH

Bournemouth
78 Old Christchurch Rd
Bournemouth. BH1 1LR

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From £20.00 inc. vat

Samson StudioDock

Samson is a brand well known as the affordable 'recording studio' specialist. Now they have fitted an iPod/iPhone dock plus USB connection to a small set of self-amplified studio style speakers to deliver unrivalled flexibility and sound quality for the price. You can test drive them in all of our stores or discover more on-line at solutions-inc.co.uk

£99.00 inc. vat (introductory price offer)

Revo iBlik DAB+
iPod dock with DAB/FM Radio.
Includes remote
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Wadia 170i Dock
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£325.00 inc. vat

Bowers & Wilkins Zeppelin

Still our best selling iPod/iPhone speaker system. Five internal drivers/speakers create a rich involving sound quality that will not dissappoint. The central forward dock with back rest is perfect for use the iPhone and iPod touch. Includes remote control.

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intempo RDI

iPod Speaker System with integrated DAB and FM radio. The Intempo DAB boasts stylish design and exceptional sound quality . This Intempo DAB alarm clock radio comes with comprehensive remote control and both USB and mini-jack connections.

£115.00 inc. vat

Blue Mikey

Blue's new iPod recording device. Record lectures, voice notes, live music, interviews and more. Mikey can capture it all with audio quality unheard of in a hand-held device. But hey, you'd expect that from a company with years of experience designing and engineering award-winning studio mics!

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Hold your iPhone steady in your car.
£20.00 inc. vat

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